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COLLECTORS

GAZETTE

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For further information on our auctions, to consign or to get a valuation, please contact Hugo Marsh or Bob Leggett on + 44 (0)1635 580595 or hugo@specialauctionservices.com
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■ AUCTION REPORT

MAKE MINE MECCANO

Vintage Meccano sets take the top spots at Tennants Auctioneers.

IN days gone by it's likely many children would be spending their time in January playing with the Meccano sets they gleefully unwrapped on Christmas day. Well, the same could be true of collectors today who snapped up some super Meccano lots in the Toys, Models & Collectables auction at Tennants in December.

Among the highlights was a built No. 2 Constructor Car in green/cream with additional



Meccano No. 2 Constructor Car in green/cream with additional spare parts and instructions.

spare parts and instruction leaflet (should you fancy having a go at building it yourself). In excellent condition, this bright model sold for £800, based on a £500 to £700 estimate.

One plane that really took off was a Meccano No. 00 Camouflage Aeroplane in a blue card box with orange label and reproduction insert. This charming piece was in fair to good condition and flew over the £80 to £120 estimate to sell for £320.

Another delightful lot was a Meccano Set No. 7 with blue hatched/gold pieces with original stringing, in a red card

box with lift out tray. It also came with the original receipt in an 'Advice' envelope dated 14/3/1940 and instruction booklets for Outfits No. 6, 7 and 8. The auctioneer noted it was an "early set in exceptional condition", which led it to achieve a sale price of £500.

Away from the Meccano a definite highlight at Tennant's was a Cragstan battery operated Great Astronaut Robot with aerial stop/start and astronaut face beneath its acrylic visor. In good to excellent condition but with a torn box, this fantastic tinplate toy sold for £450, which was more than double the low estimate. ■



Meccano Set No. 7 in its original box with instructions.

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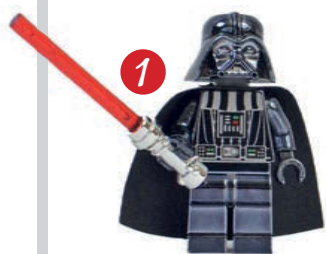


■ Ewbank's in Woking, Surrey, had plenty on offer in its Toys, Collectables and Militaria sale last month including tinplate, diecast cars and lots more. However, it was the tinplate section that offered up some of the most interesting lots with robots, cars and animals, all up for grabs. Top spot went to a Tippco, Germany, 1950s Harley Davidson friction driven motorcycle with rider and passenger, measuring 23.5cm long. Although it didn't quite reach the £1,400 low estimate, the motorcycle sold for £800. Another tasty tinplate treat was an Issmayr, Germany, clockwork rear entry open tourer from 1905 with chauffeur and adjustable steering. With an estimate of £600 to £800 the car realised £550. Finally, one lot that did exceed the estimate was a Corgi Toys No. 31 The 'Riviera' Gift Set, which made £160, just £10 over the top valuation.

■ SPECIAL FEATURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Auctioneers, experts and *Collectors Gazette* contributors choose their favourite collecting moments from 2015.



■ **ANDREW STOWE (1)**
EAST BRISTOL AUCTIONS

My highlight of 2015 was consigning one of the best collections of Star Wars LEGO I've ever seen. As a perfect example of how collectable LEGO has become, the vendor bought in a list of reserves that I promptly ignored, as they were very low! Hoping the sales would contribute towards a new car, the vendor was delighted when the total selling price meant he could go and buy his new car outright. The highest lot from the collection was the LEGO 10179 Millennium Falcon but, for me, my favourite piece was one much smaller. Selling for £60 was a sought after LEGO Darth Vader chrome variation minifigure, available for just a few pounds a couple of years back. My advice for 2016: raid your attics for LEGO!



■ **ANN EVANS (2)**
COLLECTORS GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

One of the highlights for photographer Rob Tysall and I in 2015 was the Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society (TIMS) three-day exhibition in May. Meccanuity 2015 was held in the Enginuity Museum, at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire. There were some incredible Meccano models on display, and we were stopped in our tracks when we spotted 82-year-old Ken Senar's Meccano model of a Russian secret weapon – a large semi-amphibious vehicle known as the Orlyonok or Eaglet – complete with an armoured personnel carrier in its hold. Ken's creation had previously won the International Meccano Exhibition held in Skegness, and not surprisingly at the Ironbridge event Ken was awarded the Society's John Linder Shield. John Linder



being the founder of TIMS. The shield was presented to Ken by John's widow, Mary. The look on Ken's face when the winner was announced was just brilliant!

■ **DAVID BOXALL (3)**
COLLECTORS GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

I have found a number of models during 2015 but I think that my favourite purchase of the year has to be the Lambretta and Sidecar. I have always wanted one of these, and have been searching for some time. Once again, this model came from a friend and fellow collector, which makes it even more special. The Lambretta and Sidecar was released by Matchbox as model No. 36, as one of the '1-75' Series of Regular Wheels. According to the Ramsay's Guide, this beautiful little model was issued in 1961, and has four variations listed. The scooter and the base of the sidecar appear to be one



casting, while the sidecar itself is cast separately. A single rivet joins the pair together. The rear axle extends under the full width of the Lambretta and Sidecar, giving the model a very stable finish. I have always liked the colour of this model, and the rounded lines of the Lambretta, and particularly the sidecar, are aesthetically very pleasing. The whole model has a quality feel about it and it simply oozes nostalgia.

■ **GERALD EDWARDS (4)**
COLLECTORS GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

I found a Timpo Jet Car quite by accident at a recent swapmeet. It is something I have been looking for for a long time. I already had a loose one but the boxed version is ultra elusive. This was an early post War offering from Timpo Toys, a much-underrated British manufacturer, and it dates



to around 1948. A simple tinplate construction vehicle measuring five inches long, it has an internal spring launched "Jet Propelled" feature. This was rather a futuristic toy for the time, especially because it was made in very attractive bright metallic colours. My other version is metallic blue. This would appeal not only to car collectors but it crosses into space age territory too. This example is complete with a tight box and the all-important, easily lost, metal launching rod and instruction leaflet. The original price on the box is 5/- (25p), which was a lot of money at the time and hence why few were made and sold. This one looks to be ex-shop stock. A rare find!

■ **HUGO MARSH (5)**
SPECIAL AUCTION SERVICES
The highlight of the year for me was an email from a man in South London with a distinctive name. I

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH

UNDERGROUND TOYS SHERLOCK

Release: Out now Price: £15.99
Sherlock Holmes isn't necessarily an action hero – preferring more cerebral feats – but that hasn't stopped Underground Toys releasing an action figure of the famous detective. The likeness is uncanny and it comes with suitable accessories.
>> www.underground-toys.com



EXCLUSIVE FIRST EDITIONS

AEC RT - LONDON COUNTY NBC

Release: Out now Price: £34.50
Of course, we're used to seeing London double deckers in their bright red colouring but this charming green example is definitely eye-catching. In fact, this was one of only five RT buses to be decorated into London County livery.
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2015



remembered selling a lovely Hornby O Gauge collection for a charming gentleman of the same name in 1982, back when I first started cataloguing, at Phillips in London. It turned out to be his late father and I soon had the great pleasure of meeting him and his mother. She was touched that I remembered her late husband with such affection; when you are a youngster and the older generation treat you kindly you remember it. It turned out that she had been on holiday to Israel in the late 1960s and had brought back a boxed example of the fantastically rare Gamda Israel Defence Army Set for her son. He had played with it a bit, but it was still in good condition and we were all thrilled when it sold for £1,500. What goes around comes around!

■ **ROB BURMAN (6)**
EDITOR

For me there's one highlight



that immediately springs to mind: getting to look inside the abandoned Beeches toy shop in North Wales before it was cleared out by Vectis ready to be auctioned. This was a rare opportunity to get a glimpse inside this spectacular - if slightly spooky - treasure trove of old toys, many of which had been there since the 1950s. Nowadays there aren't many independent toy shops left, so having the opportunity to look inside this incredible building was a real treat and one that I won't forget in a long time.

■ **KATHY TAYLOR (7)**
VECTIS AUCTIONS

My highlight for 2015 must be selling the Palitoy Boba Fett 3 3/4" 30B figure for £18,000. This must be an auction world record for a Star Wars production figure. It's been an exciting year here at Vectis - bring it on for 2016! ■



HOT WHEELS ELITE CLASSIC TV BATMOBILE WITH FIGURES

Release: Out now Price: £69.99

Typically the Hot Wheels Elite models can be a little pricey and a 1/18 scale release can set you back up to £200. However, this latest release comes at a budget price point and the loss in detail isn't too bad. A great choice for the cash conscious. » www.hotwheels-elite.com

240

A Star Wars pencil sharpener sold for £240 at Vectis Auctions in December.

28

Cottees Auction House is moving venue on 28th January.

500

A Star Wars sale at Sotheby's realised an incredible \$500,000.

50

It's been 50 years since the live action Batman television series was first broadcast.

16k

The Wrenn Collection netted more than £16,000 at Special Auction Services last month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

» HORNBY VISITOR CENTRE

The closure of Hornby's famous Margate factory is finally complete after the announcement that the Hornby Visitor Centre will be moving to new premises at Ramsgate Harbour. "We immediately liked the location and the nearby history of the seafront railway station. We were keen to keep the attraction in Thanet but wanted to retain autonomy. The site at Ramsgate is ideal in both design and location," said David Howe, visitor centre manager. "The visitor centre at Westwood attracted nearly 40,000 visitors in 2014, despite its out of town location, and we believe there is huge potential to grow the numbers." The new Hornby Visitor Centre will open early 2016.

» THUNDERBALL DB5 50TH ANNIVERSARY

After the success of its 50th anniversary James Bond Goldfinger Aston Martin DB5, Corgi is holding a similar celebration for the 50th anniversary of Thunderball. The company has just released a celebratory model based on the same mould as the 50th anniversary Goldfinger version, complete with working ejector seat, front-mounted machine guns and bulletproof rear screen. The new model comes in retro-style packaging and, once again, Corgi is sending trade boxes of six to retailers, which contain five silver versions and one gold edition... so expect a potential premium on re-sells of the gold issue. The James Bond Aston Martin DB5 Thunderball 50th Anniversary (ref: CC04206S) is available now priced £19.99.

» PUPPET MASTERS

Sheffield Auction Gallery has a very interesting collection that's due to be sold in its 22nd January sale. The pieces in question are a quintet of ventriloquist dolls called Rusty, Jimmy, Whinnie, Toby and Pocket that belonged to Sheffield-based ventriloquist and magician Cyril Walter Hogg, whose career spanned more than 50 years. Cyril's most famous doll was Rusty who went off to war with Cyril to help entertain the troops. Following his death last year, his dolls and props will now be sold by Sheffield Auction Gallery. "Ventriloquist dolls with a strong stage provenance behind them do not come to the market very often and with two of Cyril's dolls being by Davenport's, one of the world's leading manufacturers, interest is expected to be strong," commented Sheffield Auction Gallery's senior valuer and auctioneer, John Morgan.

» BARRY TOY & TRAIN SALE

The Barry Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street is hosting the next Toy & Train Sale on Sunday 31st January, between 10.30am and 3pm - this is the first event of this type at this venue in 2016. Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our Barry event is proving ever more popular and it offers a wonderful range of stall-holders trading in the large and well-lit venue that offers vast amounts of space for everyone. Stall-holders will be keen to buy and to exchange as well as to sell and the public are urged to raid their attics and to bring along any surplus toys and trains - they could be worth more than is thought."

» DAILY EXPRESS VAN

Featuring in the January 20th Specialist Diecast sale at Vectis Auctions is a private owner Corgi collection of approximately 120 lots. There are some interesting colour variations, many of which are mint and boxed. Examples include a Daily Express Van, in the standard blue issue and a rare bright blue, a rare electric blue Man From Uncle Thrushbuster, unboxed, and an array of nice, interesting minis; including a pale blue variation that usually belongs in the East African Gift Set. The condition of the models and their boxes is exceptional, according to Vectis, and there are many boxed and unboxed cars and commercials.

■ AUCTION REPORT

TRAINS GALORE NETS £250,000

More than 1,300 lots in Special Auction Services' hugely anticipated sale, including the Wrenn Family Collection.

ONE of the annual events to look forward to in the collecting calendar, along with the likes of the London Toy Fair, is Special Auction Services' two-day Trains Galore sale. Since the Newbury auctioneer took over the prestigious auction in 2007, Trains Galore has become the premiere event for quality railway collectables and attracts sellers and vendors from all over the country... and the world.

The recent December sale was, of course, no different and thanks to some top quality items, the total sale price was £251,174. One of the highlights was most certainly a collection of ex-factory Wrenn Railways locomotives and rolling stock that had been owned by the Wrenn family, who ran the company until 1992.

"It was a huge honour to auction these items and the Wrenn family was delighted with the £16,820 total," explained Hugo Marsh, toy and train specialist and director of Special Auction Services. "The quality of these items was absolutely



Left: You'll always find something interesting at Special Auction Services and this sale was no different.

Below: Liven up boring meetings with a train set inside a briefcase.



Right: Just one of the fine pieces in the Wrenn Family Collection.



Below: Trains Galore certainly offers up some fantastic quality pieces.



spectacular as many of them, particularly the rolling stock from the last year of production, had been taken direct from the production line, so the provenance was incredible.

"As a result the bidding pace was frantic because collectors realised there will never be an opportunity quite like this to acquire such superb examples. Although,

we will be selling the second half of the Wrenn collection in April, so I'm expecting a similar reaction during that sale too."

Many of the Wrenn pieces exceeded their estimates, such as a W2309 rebuilt 'Westward Ho' in BR black that was sold for £850 (estimate £400 to £600); a WW2236 rebuilt 'Dorchester' in BR green

realised £340 (estimate £120 to £180); a W2228 'City of Birmingham' in BR green made £600 (estimate £100 to £200) and a W2316 'City of Glasgow' in BR green sold for £780 (estimate £100 to £200). Of course, these are just a handful of the fantastic results.

Elsewhere the family collection of components and masters made by James

Stanley, the most celebrated British model locomotive craftsman, was sold for £4,930 in 11 lots to one determined collector. Interestingly, the successful bidder intends to mount the collection as a display to help educate top-quality engineering apprentices, explained Hugo.

"I always really enjoy Trains Galore because the enthusiasm from railway collectors – no matter what their chosen gauge is – is always fantastic. Whether you have layouts that are the size of a briefcase or ones that fill an entire living room, that level of enthusiasm is always the same and it never seems to diminish.

"In fact, due to high demand from collectors, we will be steaming into 2016 with two additional specialised train auctions – the first on the 27th and 28th January comprising more than 1,000 lots and another on 13th and 14th April. We believe this cements our position as the leading auctioneers of toy and model trains in the country." ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

PREMIUM CLASSIXS VW T2A PICK-UP WITH SNOW PLOUGH

Release: Out now Price: £41.99

Well, we haven't had much snow so far (at least at the time of writing) so it's unlikely we would need many of these ploughs on the road. However, this bright orange model is fantastic and has a limited run of just 500 pieces.

>> www.ayrey.co.uk



OXFORD DIECAST BEDFORD CA ICE CREAM VAN WALLS

Release: Out now Price: £5.25

From ice to ice creams now with Oxford's latest release in its ever-growing range of 1/76 ice cream van models. Once again, you've got to admire Oxford's attention to detail because the printing is so crisp.

>> www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

GREENLIGHT COLLECTIBLES DON'S 1970 CHEVROLET CHEVELLE SS FAST AND FURIOUS

Release: Out now Price: £69.99

A curious release from Greenlight, due to the fact it's chosen to release the grey primed version of the car first, with a painted one due soon. The car is nice but it's not exactly going to leap off your display shelf.

>> www.greenlighttoys.com



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■ AUCTION REPORT

THE BIDS
AWAKEN

Star Wars sale at Vectis Auctions nets a most impressive £160,000.

AS the world awaited the premier of The Force Awakens on 8th December, Vectis created its own Star Wars-themed auction that netted an impressive £160,000. The sale of around 690 lots started at 10am but due to the high level of interest, it didn't finish until 5pm.

Kathy Taylor of Vectis Auctions said: "With the already heavy army of avid Star Wars followers, the collecting community continues to grow, and it doesn't look like it will wane any time soon. With over 38 years of history, the franchise continues to grow and hold people's interest. In fact Vectis Auctions is seeing higher prices paid than ever before, for example just over three years ago an Empire Strikes Back AT-AT could be expected to fetch £20- £30 at auction, now an unboxed Walker can achieve £70 -£80, £120 if boxed.

"Even many of the play



TOP Even Star Wars pencil sharpeners are now worth hundreds!

ABOVE Palitoy Chewbacca action figure, which made £2,040.



LEFT Palitoy Star Wars Death Star, with its original trade box.



worn childhood toys are still highly collectable and a loose vinyl

caped Jawa, retrieved from a vendor's toy box realised £900. Meanwhile small accessories can also be hidden gems themselves and one lot contained a Kenner Star Wars Boba Fett Rocket. The loose accessory from 1979 had been AFA Graded and came with a letter of authenticity that surely helped the tiny, often lost, missile achieve £1,920."

Without doubt the carded figures are extremely sought after, from the main characters to slightly less well-known consorts; the card back, the condition and the sheer determination of bidders will all reflect in the prices achieved at auction. So, for example, an AFA Archival Graded Palitoy Darth Vader realised £1,320, while Chewbacca on a 12A punched card back, sold for a fantastic £2,040.

However a trade box of carded figures, no matter the character knows no bounds.

Lot 219 featured a trade box of 24 Palitoy Star Wars #33367 Death Squad Commanders in case fresh condition, which sold for a staggering £11,400, while a Palitoy/General Mills/Meccano Return of the Jedi trade pack of six Scout Walker Vehicles from 1983 achieved £1,800 and a Palitoy Death Star, with its original trade box (#33351 DEATH STAR PLAY SITUATION 6) sold for £2,640.

Star Wars is an all-encompassing franchise, and items range from toys to posters, to school accessories and cinema memorabilia and ephemera, all of which is highly collectable. Lot 369, an unassuming Helix Death Star tinplate and plastic pencil sharpener, which most Star Wars fans would have used in their every day school life sold for an impressive £240. ■

MORE NEW RELEASES...

DAPOL CLASS 73/1

Release: Out now Price: £140.60

Dapol's 73 is a useful little number for modellers across six decades and the company is releasing various liveries of the widely used loco too.

Those who have been waiting for a decent Class 73 for some time should be pleased with this.

» www.dapol.co.uk



MINERVA MODEL RAILWAYS PECKETT 'E'

Release: Out now Price: £255

Minerva is a new name to the model railway market but is aiming to make O gauge affordable to those interested in the larger scale who don't fancy paying through the nose for vintage pieces.

» www.minervamodelrailways.co.uk

LEGO DOCTOR WHO

Release: Out now Price: £49.99

Suggested by the LEGO community, this brickly take on Doctor Who features Capaldi taking on some Daleks in the TARDIS. The interior can be detached so the TARDIS can be closed up, ready for time travel.

» www.lego.com





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■ AUCTION REPORT

BUSES DO THE BUSINESS

IF buses or coaches are your thing then it's likely you would have been impressed by the offerings in the December sale at Greenslade Taylor Hunt, as there were a number of bus-themed lots that caught the eye.

The most valuable piece on the day was a Spot-On No. 156 Mulliner Luxury Coach in silver over slate blue with red side flashes that was considered to be in excellent condition, despite the off-side corner of the front bumper being broken. Despite this damage, the bus didn't stop at the top estimate of £150 and sold for £420. Another

attractive bus also came courtesy of Spot-On, this time a No. 145 AEC Routemaster Bus in red with a black base. In near mint condition, despite a cracked radiator, the model came in a very good box. The double decker more than doubled its low estimate of £120 and sold for £280. Also on the theme of buses was a pre-war trade box of six Dinky Toys No. 29c Double Decker Motor Buses in a yellow box with code 'A2226' to the ends and 'BW1214 10M 8-38' to one side. However, despite the box being pre-war, the contents were actually immediate post-war



Spot-On No. 145 AEC Routemaster Bus.

releases. The models were in generally good condition and sold for £200. Another pre-war Dinky offering was a No. 31 Holland Coachcraft Van in green with gold lettering, smooth black hubs and white rubber tyres. In fair to generally good condition the model made £200 too. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

BIG PRICES FOR SMALL MODELS



ALONGSIDE the numerous Corgi models, Hornby locomotives and slots cars, Aston's Auctioneers had a very neat selection of Matchbox diecast in its December sale, many of which exceeded their valuations. Taking the lead was Matchbox Series Lesney No. 19 MGA with silver plastic wheels in a good box that was estimated at £150 to £200 and sold for bang on that top estimate. Following closely behind was

a Matchbox Series Lesney No. 47b Commer Lyons Ice Cream Canteen with "scarce grey plastic wheels" and a good box. It sold for £120, which was £40 above the top pre-sale estimate.

Another nice Matchbox offering was a No. 41 Ford GT Racer in white with red hubs that sold for £110, just slightly under the low estimate this time, and a No. 75 Thunderbird with blue base, silver plastic wheels and 'C' Type box made £85. ■

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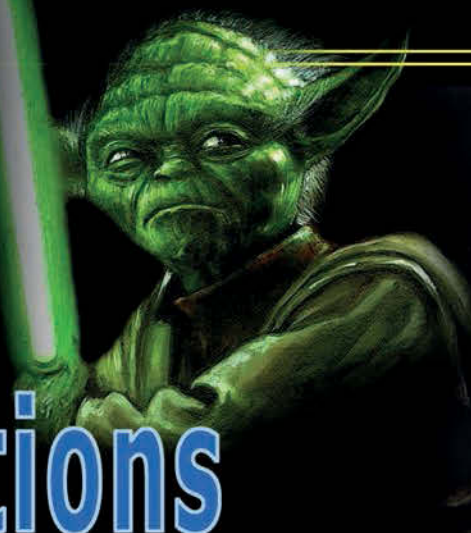
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■ AUCTION REPORT

POWER OF THE FORCE

Star Wars auction featuring toys and other collectables at Sotheby's in New York makes more than \$500,000.



A special multipack of Star Wars figures that was only available in Sears in Canada.

AS a rule Sotheby's doesn't trouble itself with toys, instead opting to auction off rare pieces of art or jewellery that sells for hundreds of thousands. However, it recently broke that tradition to auction off the Star Wars collection of Japanese collector Tomoaki Nagao (also known as NIGO). The sale attracted worldwide attention and featured everything from action figures and lightsabers to cookie jars and posters. This media frenzy – inspired most certainly by the recent release of *The Force Awakens* – goes some way to explaining the

impressive auction total of \$505,202.

However, it was the action figures that took the top spot, in particular a multipack of seven Star Wars figures (including Boba Fett, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, etc.) that was only sold through Sears department stores in Canada. Available in 1980, they are very rare today and even more rare in fantastic condition, like the example sold. Estimated at \$8,000 to \$12,000, the multipack sold for an eye-watering \$32,500.

Following closely behind was the Rebellion's poster boy Luke Skywalker, complete with double-telescoping lightsaber. The

double-telescoping weapon was only produced by Kenner for a short time, as it had a tendency to snap off, so these originals are exceptionally sought after. With an estimate of \$12,000 to \$18,000, Luke stayed on target and sold for \$25,000.

Our final choice shows how attention to detail can make all the difference. For example, a typical Kenner Return of the Jedi General Madine figure sells for around the £40 mark. However, the same figure in the Tri-Logo packaging sold for a whopping \$12,500 at Sotheby's, as it's thought to be one of only 12 such examples that exist today. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

THROWING OFF THE SHACKLES

Shackleton trucks fly past their estimates at M&M Auctions.



One of the Shackleton Fodens sold at M&M Auctions.

SHACKLETON toys are among some of the most sought after replica trucks available and whenever they appear at auction they're bound to cause a stir. This was certainly the case during M&M Auctions' internet-only sale when a selection of Shackleton replicas all soared past their estimates.

The toy maker was founded by Maurice Shackleton in 1939 and originally produced wooden toys, like dolls houses and Fodens trucks. Interestingly the latter company had a factory that was based just down the road from Shackleton, so it's easy to see why the two firms struck up a relationship. Diecast models of famous Fodens, complete with a clockwork motor, were released in 1948 but they weren't cheap, costing around five times more than a standard Dinky. This

large cost may explain why the company only lasted until 1952, yet the wonderful Fodens it left behind have become very collectable.

This love for Fodens certainly helps to explain the great results at M&M in December. Among the top pieces was a Shackleton Foden FG6 Flatbed Truck and Dyson Trailer in dark blue, complete with its original very good box. Estimated at £150 to £300, the truck realised spot-on the top estimate. Meanwhile, another FG6 in dark blue without a Dyson trailer sold for £220.

Another lot – although nothing to do with Shackleton this time – was a rare Tri-ang Jumbo Series Austin Lorry with wood load, along with a Tri-ang Jumbo Series Tip Lorry. Both were in near mint condition in very good boxes and sold for £340, based on an £80 to £120 estimate. ■

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NEXT MONTH

MARCH 2016

» BEST OF BRITISH

Who will Brian Howes choose for his next in-depth article?

» EASY AS ABC

Alwyn reaches Cherilea in his alphabetical trip of toys.

» DAN DARE

We head to space with the famous British sci-fi icon.



*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

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Through the Archives

In the latest of our new series, we remember the good old days with a classic *Collectors Gazette*.

So you want to run your own toy show? Asked the front cover of the April 1994 issue, which certainly provided plenty of answers, thanks to an in-depth article that spread over several pages. Back in 1994 it's easy to see why so many people were thinking of starting their own show. A quick look in the toy fair section at the back of the *Gazette* shows that each weekend was jam-packed with events across the country, so clearly some people must have thought that toy fairs provided a lucrative opportunity.

In the article numerous established toy fair organisers (e.g. John Webb and Barry Potter) provide their suggestions for people thinking of starting up their own show with, of course, a few warnings about how difficult the market can be. Much of the advice given is actually pretty useful today, such as making sure you have a large and well lit venue with easy parking and good catering facilities. Likewise, Barry Potter's suggestion to double check everything (security, catering, tables, etc.) should be common sense for most people organising a fair. However, there are some comments that might not come straight to mind, such as ensuring you promote a welcoming atmosphere at your fair or try to specialise in a particular genre of collecting, which will then help to attract particular dealers and punters.

Along with all the good advice, there are also some horror stories from promoters, such as the time the manager of a hall didn't tell the toy fair organisers that it was double booked until the weekend before; one event that only attracted three stands (two of which belonged to the organiser); another where only 10 customers turned up and one, which certainly seems unusual, when a hurricane the night before the fair caused a hole in the venue's roof... anyone remember that one?

Finally, the article concludes that it's unlikely we'll ever see a one-day show with the golden 1,000 tables on offer. The reason is that it would just be a logistical nightmare to organise but also it wouldn't be a particularly great experience for the punters because they simply wouldn't have enough time to see everything. For example, if they wanted to visit each stand they would only have 36 seconds to peruse the goods! **CG**

**ISSUE
No. 130
1994**

We've skipped forward a few years now to 1994 when the toy collecting market was really going strong, with plenty of fairs taking place each weekend. What's more, prices were starting to shoot up too, as the cover mentions a first series Dinky Supertoys Foden No. 501 sold for £5,200 at Vectis Auctions.

**LEFT**

Proof that quality always sells, the main news story this issue is about a Dinky Foden that sold for £5,200 at Vectis.

**RIGHT**

Here's the start of the main article, which provides some useful advice, even today. Then again it must have been hard to make your show stand out from the crowd back in the '90s.

**LEFT**

One of the most interesting aspects of collecting in the 1990s was the growing interest in collecting the free toys given away with McDonald's Happy Meals.

BELOW

Here's an interesting problem that we no longer have to deal with today: people smoking as they walk round a show! One reader explains how he almost lost an eye from a stray cigarette while browsing a stall.



Open Sesame



David Boxall considers some of the opening features developed and used in Corgi Toys.

ABOVE Corgi's use of opening features, added plenty of fun to potentially dull play times.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

★ STARS OF THE SHOW

Of course, although David has shown that Corgi introduced plenty of interesting features, such as opening doors and working lights in its more typical vehicles, there were lots of other innovative ideas like working chimes in the ice cream vans and even noisy sirens for the emergency services. However, many of the best play features were saved for the TV and film range and in a future issue we'll take a look at the fantastic play features in the likes of the Batmobile and James Bond Aston Martin DB5, plus others! Stay tuned TV and film fans...

Since the launch of Corgi toys in 1956, it has consistently been one of the market leaders. During the 1960s, Corgi was the master of innovation, as it was very often the first company to try a particular gadget or new feature in its toys. It was essential to develop then produce more exciting products than anyone else and the design team certainly did a good job. After my previous feature on Corgi's innovative lights, this time I have chosen a number of Corgi models to show the wide-ranging use of opening doors and bonnets etc.

The first of our Corgi Toys with an interesting opening feature is a commercial vehicle. The Karrier 'Bantam' Lucozade Van was released in 1958 as model No 411. It was issued in yellow with 'Lucozade' stickers on the side of the van. The cab had no interior and as an early model, it had no suspension. It did, however, have a side opening door,

which was quite unusual. The side door was a very realistic 'roller shutter door made of nylon'. It was grey and contrasted rather well with the yellow body colour. It achieved 192,000 sales and was available until 1962.

Corgi also released the Rice's Pony Trailer in 1958, as model No. 102. This very handy horse box had an

when travelling along those bumpy carpets. It was manufactured in a 1/45 scale and achieved 427,000 sales.

The first car with opening features came in 1960, with the release of the Aston Martin DB4 Saloon. It was issued as model No. 218 and was available in red with a lemon interior, or yellow with a red interior. It was

and spare wheel. It was released in 1961 as model No. 224. It was available in two-tone black and silver or two-tone cream and light metallic green – both with a red interior. The car had an excellent steering system and all new 'twinkly lights'. This model was also very popular and achieved 964,000 sales. It was a slightly larger

An article on the opening features used by Corgi would not be complete without one of the all-time greats: the Triumph Herald Coupe, which was released as model No. 231 in 1961.

excellent drop-down tail gate, which also provided a ramp for access. It was issued in red and black, red and cream and tan and cream. Early models had a wire draw bar, while later models were cast with the draw bar as part of the main body. The lift and open action on the trailer was particularly good, and ensured that the gate remained closed

manufactured in a 1/46 scale and was the first Corgi to have an opening bonnet. When opened, the bonnet revealed a well-detailed engine. This was a very stylish model and proved to be extremely popular, achieving 982,000 sales between 1960 and 1965.

The Bentley Continental is also an interesting model with a large opening boot

car in the Corgi range, and was produced to a 1/50 scale. The large opening boot had sufficient room for the spare tyre and all sorts of luggage – a most luxurious play item.

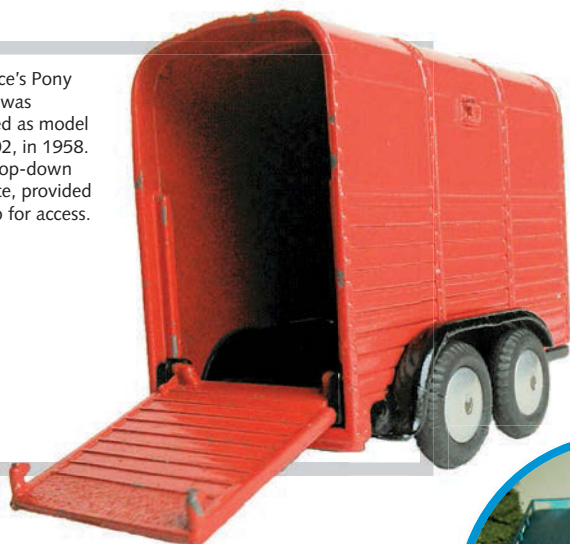
An article on the opening features used by Corgi would not be complete without one of the all-time greats: the Triumph Herald Coupe, which was released as model No. 231 in 1961. It

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The Rice's Pony Trailer was released as model No. 102, in 1958. The drop-down tail gate, provided a ramp for access.



INSET The Ford Thames Airborne Caravan was released in 1962, as model No. 402. The model had rather chunky doors with large hinges, which worked beautifully.



ABOVE The Karrier 'Bantam' Lucozade Van with side roller shutter door, was released in 1958 as model No. 411.



The Bentley Continental had a large opening boot with a spare wheel inside. It was released in 1961 as model No. 224.



The E Type Jaguar was released as model No. 307 in 1962. The opening or lift-off hard top was particularly well-designed.

was available in gold and white, or blue and white with a red interior. This little car had a fully opening bonnet, just like the real thing. When open it revealed a detailed engine, which even had an authentic air filter fitted, in black moulded plastic. The bonnet was held closed by means of a wire spring mounted below the engine casting and protruding at the lower sides of the body. It was available until 1965 and achieved 813,000 sales. This was and still is a fabulous toy – a real delight.

Another opening or rather 'lift-off', of particular interest can be found on the E Type Jaguar. This car was released as model No. 307, in 1962. The opening or lift-off hard top is such a well-designed and snug fit, it certainly deserves

a mention. The car was available in a plum maroon colour or graphite grey. Both versions had a plum maroon top. It was withdrawn in 1964 and achieved 473,000 sales.

The Ford Thames Airborne Caravan was also released in 1962, as model No. 402. All the colour versions of this model were two-tone, and so was the plastic interior. This was the first injection moulded interior, and it is somewhat unusual for having two different coloured plastics on the inside of the toy. The model had rather chunky doors with large hinges, which worked beautifully. In my picture, it is parked alongside the Commer Camera Van, model No. 479 (1968), to show how the door hinges were modified over time to be more like the real vehicle. The Ford Thames

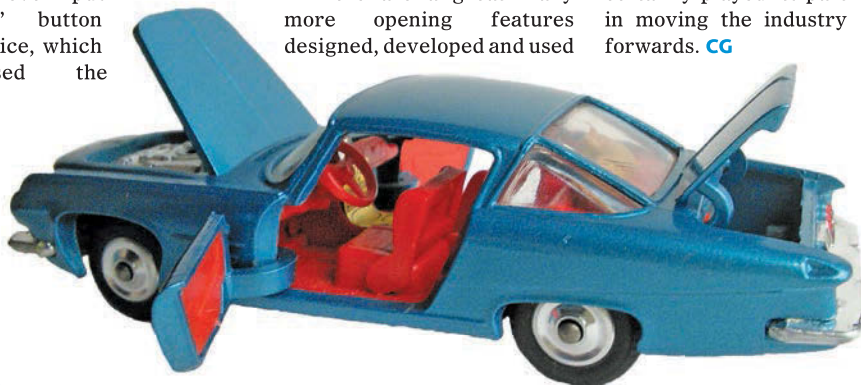
was a great toy to play with and achieved 902,000 sales.

Finally, a show stopper... the Chrysler Ghia L 6.4, released as model No. 241 in 1963. This car was available in numerous colours and had openings everywhere. The doors, bonnet and boot all opened. The bonnet had a clever 'push-peg' button device, which raised the

lid of the bonnet as the car was pushed down against the suspension. It was manufactured in a 1/48 scale and achieved an amazing 1,753,000 sales. This was more than a little ironic as Chrysler apparently only ever made six of the full size real cars.

There are a great many more opening features designed, developed and used

by Corgi. In the short five year time span from 1958 to 1963, the models considered give a brief glimpse of the growing changes to the diecast toy. The demand grew for more interesting models with exciting features and Corgi certainly played its part in moving the industry forwards. **CG**



ABOVE The Chrysler Ghia L 6.4 was released as model No. 241, in 1963. The doors, bonnet and boot all opened.

Master Models

Mark Nolan considers the history of the little known MasterModels range of model railway accessories.

Some of the most interesting areas of collecting are where one discipline bumps up against another. For example, farm toys may meet cars; war gaming can meet trains; dolls house furniture meets toy soldiers.

To my mind the area with the most influence has to be trains because they are the thinking collector's collectable. Once toy trains started to get realistic, they began to impose their values on other toys. When it comes to mixing collectables, tinplate 0 gauge trains at around 1/48 scale were ideal. They were toy-like and reasonably forgiving. You could stick a Dinky car, a Britains lead soldier or even a dolls house accessory in there and it would look ok. The arrival of OO gauge at 1/76 scale was a whole lot more demanding.

Out in the real toy world, figures, cars, animals, boats, whatever, all tended to be made in a size that suited the manufacturer. For example, there was never any pretence that Matchbox cars were all to the same scale. Rather they were designed to fill their 'matchbox'. If they weren't in scale with each other, they certainly weren't going to be in scale with any model trains.

Like real railways, model railways started to demand that anything that shared their space had to be the Right Size. It didn't have to be that detailed or even realistic, as long as it was roughly the same scale.



STUMBLING ACROSS A COLLECTABLE

My own experience of dabbling in toy trains is probably typical. Every so often you'd buy a collection and at the bottom of the box, ignored in the valuation, there might be some small metal accessories. Having seen how collectable Britains artefacts could be, I was naturally drawn to these and it was easy to keep them aside. Eventually it dawned on me that, although there was no obvious house style, these metal models were from the same manufacturer. Just to add some more mystique, the models rarely had a maker's name anywhere. If there

was anything it usually said "British Made".

MYSTERY MODELS

This story starts to get interesting around 1950. Prior to then, a Mr Charles Kempster provided the 'Kem' in a manufacturing company called Kemlows Diecast Products. You can work out what the other partner, William Arthur Lowe, contributed. They made some fairly crude military vehicles and associated toys. Then Don Bowles started advertising hand made model railway accessories like telegraph poles and signs. In 1950 a shrewd marketing man called Bertram John Ward

(Bertie) became involved. He arranged for Don's models to be mass produced by Kemlows and distributed exclusively by his company, BJ Ward. The product range became 'Master Models' or MasterModels, and any reference to Kemlows was removed from the mouldings.

What Ward was doing was filling in the gaps left by the burgeoning model railway industry. Any furniture seen on the real railway was meat for MasterModels. From oil and cable drums to benches and lineside huts; water towers to ground signals; between 1950 and the end of production in 1962, Ward expanded the range to more

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

+ FURTHER READING

One person who picked up strongly on the accessories scene is Paul Brookes. He has compiled a delightful and thoroughly researched book covering Master Models and associated products called *The Illustrated Kemlows Story* (ISBN 978-0956187901). This 180 page history of the business was written with the help of family member Stephen Lowe and includes around 700 photos of virtually every item the firm made. Paul even tracked down the barn in Wood Green where the earliest models were made from 1947.

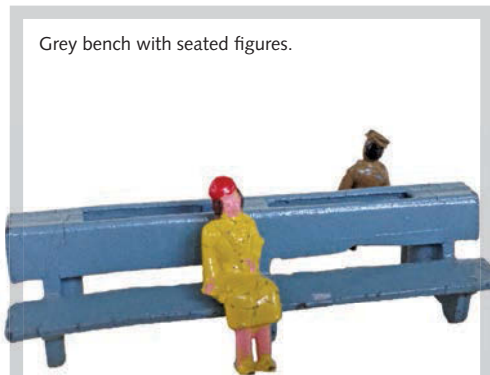
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Boxed poster hoarding; 'Lyons Ice Cream, the home sweet complete' and 'Smiths KLG spark plugs'.

Grey bench with seated figures.



No 68 Single track girder bridge



ABOVE MasterModels iconic WH Smith kiosk. Three inches of social history. The inner card is often missing but is available as a reproduction. Available 1952-62, the casting also served as a Finlay tobacco kiosk and a Walton fruit kiosk.



LEFT British Railways timetable, large hoarding with two posts on base. 2 1/4" long, headed London Midland Scottish (LMS).



LEFT Poster hoarding featuring Swan Ink and Jersey, 'for the best holiday under the sun'.



LEFT No 41 Water column with ladder and hose made from wire. Tank has nice rivet detail.



ABOVE Lamps with curved tops and advertisement board; 'Keep death off the roads' and 'We work or want'. Still true today.

than 100 lineside accessories. Together they provided a very comprehensive selection of atmospheric products, covering everything you could want to accessorise a model railway. Their diecast nature tied in particularly well with the dominant Hornby Dublo range, which was mostly diecast and tinsplate at that time. But they even worked well with Trix and Tri-ang. Being fairly cheap to manufacture, easy to

Britain, frivolities like toys would have been a significant boost for morale. Even though you couldn't afford them, it must have been nice to know that you could buy, say, a diecast model of a wrought iron public toilet for your train set. That doesn't mean you would, which means that MasterModels no. 72 Gents Toilet, "two castings which together form an outdoors wrought iron urinal block" might not have been high on

part of the fun of collecting MasterModels), the single casting came with an inner card and paper labels for detail. 'Football results, Evening News', 'Pain soon stops when you take Aspro', 'Look before you listen, Radio Times'. The WH Smith kiosk is a chunk of social history in a three inch package. The casting was judiciously recycled using different adverts to serve as no. 36 Finlay tobacco kiosk in a dark

life of the company. They did however produce an extensive range of paper products, including miniature posters, various brick papers and scenic backgrounds. The packaging was often a small buff box with 'A Wardie Product' and a Gresley A4 Pacific, oddly without a tender, which looks strange but ultimately works. Smaller items came in translucent envelopes.

SETS

The products suited being grouped together in various sets, and these included railway staff, passengers, assorted figures, seated figures, platform accessories and station equipment, as well as street furniture like pillar boxes, lamps, bus stops and phone boxes.

PRICES

Most MasterModels now come in the £5-15 range depending on condition and whether boxed or rare. Notably more expensive is the

AA Box and patrolman with motorcycle and sidecar at £30-40. One of the largest models was a grey single track girder bridge (£30). Other sizeable items were level crossings and a gantry signal with dummy colour light signals (£20). Strangely, although it made miniature ground signals (£14), MasterModels never produced a conventional semaphore signal.

In many ways the MasterModels range anticipated the extensive range of Merit plastic accessories. These have a charm of their own, but Wardie products remain an enigmatic reminder of when toys and models went from a cottage industry to a mass produced product, and extracted numerous shillings from the pockets of aspiring railway modellers in the process. **CG**

From oil and cable drums to benches and lineside huts; water towers to ground signals; between 1950 and the end of production in 1962, Ward expanded the range to more than 100 lineside accessories.

store and sell at pocket money prices, they were also free of being tied in to any particular range, yet compatible with all of them.

NEED A URINAL?

In an austere post-war

your list.

However the No. 14 WH Smith Bookstall definitely was, and this model is one of the most common to find. Diecast, painted in various shades of green (colour variation was common and is

red/brown, and 37 Walton Fruit Kiosk in grey.

PAPERWORK/BOXES

The MasterModels products were mostly metal, although some plastic figures were made near the end of the

Like clockwork...?

Alwyn Brice turns back time and investigates the world of mechanised animals.



ABOVE Ladybirds and mice were probably made in their tens of thousands and plenty have survived today for the collector.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

+ DRAWING A LINE

Although Tri-ang is more commonly associated with model railways and the Spot-On range of diecast cars, it's easy to see why it expanded into the more unusual animals. As part of Lines Bros, the company had a long tradition of making different types of toys and when the company was formed back in Victorian times Lines made numerous wooden animals and dolls house accessories.

Without a doubt, the advent of the clockwork motor was something of a milestone in the annals of the toy world. Suddenly, toys came alive – and if today's offerings are increasingly geared to AI (Artificial Intelligence, for those of you who have been dozing), then that's simply a sign of how far things have progressed in the last half dozen decades.

Much to my shame I cannot quite pin down when the first Tri-ang animals and insects wandered into the local toyshops. Box art (when found – for these toys are notorious for turning up in an unpackaged state) would seem to indicate the 1950s although I'm happy to be proved wrong on that assumption. Certainly there's footage on the Internet of the 1956 Tri-ang Toy Fair in which several clockwork toys

feature. I don't personally feel that these creations would have been great sellers in the 1960s, for there was a huge array of interesting toys in the marketplace by then – but I get the impression that Tri-ang did soldier on with them, nonetheless.

"Them" refers to an interesting, if not fascinating range of animals, birds and insects that all relied on the humble clockwork motor for propulsion. Some of these creations are inspired examples of the toymaker's art, while others are simply, well, bizarre...

Tri-ang was, at one point in its glorious history (a history that can be traced back to the 1870s), top of the heap and was arguably the largest toymaker in the world. Children of the 1950s and 1960s would have been familiar with its large, pressed steel lorries, trucks and cranes – but it made an awful lot more besides,

including such essential wares as forts, pedal cars, aircraft, miniature furniture and dolls' houses. Its earliest clockwork toys date back to the 1930s but as mentioned, I think the animals and insects came along later.

Collecting these examples of a bygone era, when pleasures were simpler and when batteries didn't figure in the equation, is quite rewarding. Patience will pay off, too: boxes do turn up, if only infrequently, but it's worth keeping an eye out. Needless to say, the Internet auction sites are a rich hunting ground but the bigger swapmeets will also yield examples from time to time.

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

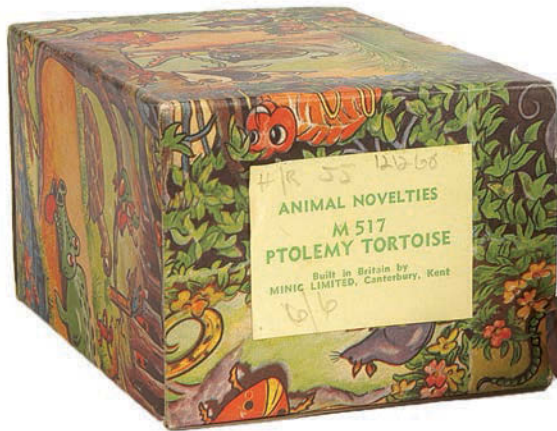
This list isn't exhaustive, but will certainly get you started. Easily the most common item is the ladybird. It's rather a dull item, to be honest, relying as it does largely on a plastic carapace set off by

stubby legs. Nothing moves (aside from the bug) and the shell can be found in anything from bright red to faded red. Its partner in crime is the mouse, an equally common fellow with a grey shiny plastic coat, whose torso is set off by two fabric ears and a whippy rubber tail (which is frequently missing or is truncated through over-zealous play). A white version is also available, possibly some mutant species from that fabled Friday afternoon.

There are more interesting creatures, though. One pair is the cat and the dog, each of which is trying (in vain) to catch an insect in front of them, which is attached to a thin wire. As the animal jerkily moves along, so the wire shakes, agitating the spider (in the case of the dog) or the butterfly (for the cat). Making a dog and a cat out of preformed bits of plastic couldn't have been easy but the result is quite pleasing,

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

BELOW Very scarce (and fragile) tortoise set off by an amazingly good box. Quite why Tri-ang delved into Egyptian history to name this fellow is beyond me.



One to look out for: arguably the high water mark of Tri-ang's clockwork mammal production, this elephant not only looks the part but features an unusual gait.



What child wouldn't have fallen in love with this furry creation? His walk is also very ursine.

RIGHT Miss Muffet might well have legged it at the sight of this totally bonkers creation from Tri-ang



RIGHT Tri-ang kitten was a brave stab at modelling something essentially furry and feline in hard, black plastic. The addition of the butterfly makes for an interesting toy as Kitty tries to capture it.



nonetheless.

Moving on (in a predictably slow, clockwork-like way), we come to the snail. I love this chap for his simplicity (there are just three main parts) and the fact that his eyeballs are attached by springs. Colouring varies (he tends to be multicoloured, which

variety, this latter sporting pink eyes, so clearly an albino. The internal gubbins is realistically encased in plush and the bear ambles along in a ponderous fashion, turning his head from side to side as he goes. It's total realism here, showing that Tri-ang had the nous to slow the clockwork

makes use of wheels under the head moulding to thrash along the ground. Nessie was never this interesting!

Another fellow is the whitish puffin that I, personally, have never seen but he does exist – one sold at Vectis a few years back. A plastic creation, you'll have

When complete and working, the elephant's progress is stately and every few steps it halts to shake its head before continuing. It's a lovely toy and the last example I saw was well over £100, although it came with a superb box.

And so we come to Tri-ang's oddballs. One worrying animal (reptile?) is the Jabberwock. This is actually quite a fearsome sort of crocodile affair, who moves swiftly along, its rubber tail swinging and its jaws snapping in a rather unsavoury manner. Lewis Carroll might not have recognised this interpretation from the famous poem – and he's not often sighted, either, which simply enhances his allure.

And then there's the Great Spider. I can only assume that Miss Muffet's nightmare was designed in the aftermath of a Friday liquid lunch at

the factory. The spider also goes to show that toy manufacturers could get away with murder all those years back. From his bulging, slightly disturbing eyes to his spindly legs (he's minus four, by the way, which only adds to his revulsion), this hobnail-booted (yes, really) arachnid advances rapidly with nefarious purpose once he's wound up. His disjointed gait is simply scary and those boots don't help the cause, either. I've sighted blue, yellow and reddish varieties but I'm sure that there are others in the woodwork. Not one for little Jemimah, this chap. So there you have it – a quick foray into the past. Happy hunting! **CG**

And then there's the Great Spider. I can only assume that Miss Muffet's nightmare was designed in the aftermath of a Friday liquid lunch at the factory.

adds to his charm) and his slow, majestic mollusc pace sets his antennae a-wobble. Wonderful stuff!

From snails to rather larger fare: Tri-ang offered two bears in its range, one brown and the other of the polar

motor down where required. Finding a good, unstained white bear might take a little while, though.

The Loch Ness Monster is somewhat different, although its friendly face will endear it to you. A segmented toy, it

to track him down too, if you want a complete collection.

One of the grandest examples of the genre, though, is the elephant and howdah. This is a complex (and fragile) toy but it does turn up from time to time.

Mega Mego

As the live action Batman television series celebrates its 50th anniversary, **Rob Burman** remembers the World's Greatest Superheroes range from Mego.



ABOVE All the Mego vehicles and playsets were big enough so that the characters could fit inside, ready for your crime-busting playtimes. Pictures courtesy of Vectis Auctions.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

+ SHORT LIVED BUT SUPER

Surprisingly, despite only being on air for two years, 120 episodes of the live action Batman show were made and it was broadcast until March 1968 on American TV. It was eventually dropped after ratings dropped significantly and there was a viewer backlash about the overly 'campy' storylines and performances.

January marks a key anniversary for, arguably, one of the world's most famous superheroes: Batman. Although the Caped Crusader has been around in comic book form since 1939, in January 1966 he really hit the big time courtesy of an adventure-packed live action series starring Adam West as Bruce Wayne/Batman and Burt Ward as Dick Grayson/Robin. Despite what we may now see as cheesy and camp storylines, featuring such famous scenes as Batman battling a shark with Shark Repellent (handily found on his Utility Belt), the show was a huge success and inspired a whole host of toys and merchandise.

Although one of the most famous toys inspired by the show is, without doubt, the

fantastic diecast Batmobile produced by Corgi, we thought we would take this opportunity to look at another manufacturer's prolific Batman output: Mego Corporation. Mego was founded by D. David Abrams in 1954 and originally set out to make pocket money toys for department stores in the States. Things took a different turn, however, in 1971 when David's son Marty joined the company and decided to widen the firm's toy output.

By 1971 Hasbro was having huge success with its G.I. Joe range of 12-inch action figures, while Palitoy was conquering the UK with Action Man. Keen to get in on the action – if you'll pardon the pun – Marty decided Mego needed its own action figure and the result was a slightly

smaller figure measuring eight-inches called Action Jackson. One of the clever moves by Mego was to give the figure the same basic body shape – meaning bodies could be mass-produced – while the characterful heads were made from plastic.

Although Action Jackson was initially a success, Mego's masterstroke came in 1972 when it teamed up with Marvel and DC to license hugely popular comic book characters like Spider-Man, Superman and, of course, Batman, as part of the World's Greatest Superheroes range. Just like Action Jackson, most of the World's Greatest Superheroes measured eight-inches tall but each one was dressed as childrens' favourite comic characters. Billed as 'America's favourite TV and comic heroes' the

first four figures included: Superman, Aquaman, Robin and Batman.

At launch the range came in cardboard boxes with some beautiful artwork on the front but, unfortunately, eager children keen to look at the figure inside ripped them open in the shop, which led to complaints from shopkeepers. Mego replaced them with much simpler 'window boxes' so kids could see the character inside. Alongside this, the initial versions of Batman and Robin included a removable cowl for Batman and a removable mask for Robin. Just like the original card boxes, these were replaced with a painted mask for Robin and moulded cowl for Batman. Of course, for the collector keen to buy the best of the best, then these original figures

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

LEFT TO RIGHT

The main staple of the World's Greatest Superheroes range was eight-inch action figures that could be posed to your heart's desire. Alongside the smaller eight-inch pieces, Mego also produced a number of larger 12.5-inch figures.



LEFT

Remember all those scenes where Adam West drove around in a converted Camper Van? No, neither can we but that didn't stop Mego producing one.



Batman's Batcycle is certainly one of the more realistic vehicles from Mego.

command a premium as they were produced in smaller quantities.

The World's Greatest Superheroes series went down a storm so Mego quickly began adding more heroes (like Spider-Man and Captain America) but

produced a special display box for the Superfoes with the catchphrase: "Zap, pow, bam, the arch enemies of the super heroes are ready to do battle with the super heroes. Eight inches of authentic comic book and TV villainy".

In the same year Mego

eight-inch action figures could fit inside, allowing you to recreate your favourite scenes from the television series. The biggest set was, as you might imagine, the spectacular Batcave, which measured 43-inches long. Inside you would find



The Wayne Foundation was the swan song for Mego's World's Greatest Superheroes series.

the previous offerings, these two weren't inspired by vehicles seen in the comics or television show and, instead, were both based on a VW Camper Van. Despite this unusual choice, Mego ensured both vehicles had plenty of play features, e.g. the Mobile Bat Lab's 'Secret Front-End Foe Catcher' which was a cage to trap villains inside, while the Joker Mobile had a hidden boxing glove in the boot that could pop out to bash Batman or the Boy Wonder in the face and a plastic flower at the front that could squirt water.

But the best was definitely yet to come and, although Mego was starting to wind down the World's Greatest Superheroes range in the late 1970s, it certainly went out with a bang, thanks to the spectacular Wayne Foundation. This impressive toy featured, not only a version of the Batcave, but also Wayne Manor. Split into four levels and measuring 40-inches tall, a working elevator could be used to transport the Dynamic Duo from the plush mansion at the top, right down to the hidden cave below. What's more, just like the live action television series, there was a secret bookcase at the top so Bruce and Dick could quickly jump in at the first sign of trouble.

Another nice touch was the inclusion of a cardboard backdrop featuring artwork by illustrator Neal Adams, who had actually worked on the comic books produced by DC. The result is a fantastic mix of recognisable pieces from the comics including the Bat Computer, the Bat Plane and the giant penny used by Two-Face. If you're looking at picking up the Wayne Foundation then, understandably, it doesn't come cheap and even incomplete versions trade on eBay for around £400. Then again, it really does make the perfect display piece for your World's Greatest Superheroes collection. Unfortunately the Wayne Foundation was the last new release from Mego in the World's Greatest Superheroes line, as the company looked to compete with the influx of 3 and 3/4" action figures developed by Kenner for Star Wars. Yet, just like the television show, this relatively short-lived series, has left us with a wonderful reminder of the iconic status of Batman. **CG**

Although Action Jackson was initially a success, Mego's masterstroke came in 1972 when it teamed up with Marvel and DC to license hugely popular comic book characters like Spider-Man, Superman and, of course, Batman.

in 1974 decided to turn its attentions to the iconic comic book villains as part of the Superfoes range. Among the Superfoes were some of Batman's most famous enemies: Joker, Riddler and the Penguin. Mego even

launched a series of playsets, accessories and vehicles, including No. 1325 Batmobile, No. 1326 Batcopter, No. 1327 Batcycle, No. 1332 The Batcave and No. 1333 Batsignal. These large-scale toys were all built so the

space for the Batmobile and Batcycle, along with a landing pad for the Batcopter.

However, Mego didn't stop there with the vehicles and in 1975 it released No. 51334 Mobile Bat Lab and No. 51336 Joker Mobile. Unlike

Best of British Britains

Brian Howes takes a look at the history of Britain's most famous toy figure maker.



When it comes to famous names in the world of toys there are few bigger or better than Britains, a brand synonymous with toy soldiers but also famed for its farm toys, civilian figures and much, much more.

The Britains story begins way back in the first few decades of Queen Victoria's long reign. It was around the early 1850s that a young, adventurous William Britain (1828-1906), a 'Brass Finisher' by trade, moved from the Midlands to London to ply his trade making brass taps, stop cocks and small brass fittings to supply the capital's rapidly developing domestic plumbing industry. After spells living in Clerkenwell the Britain family moved to 3 Grove Cottages, Barnsbury Grove, Islington, and it is here where William Britain was first recorded as a 'Toymaker' both in the Census of 1871 and on the birth certificate of his son Edward (born April 1871). It is thought, however, that Britain had made toys for several years prior to this but had not relied upon the toy trade to earn money to provide for his rapidly expanding family. These early toys were thought to be mainly mechanical toys emulating those being imported into Britain in high numbers from Germany. William Britain was obviously very skilled in the art of metalwork and he must have realised the great financial potential in making toys that he could sell at a cheaper price than

the imports.

William Britain Junior was born in December 1859 as the fifth child and first son of William and Anna Britain and when old enough he joined his father in the family business. William Britain Snr and his wife Anna Maria had eight children in total, most of whom helped out in various ways during the early growth of the business. It was William Jnr however, and his brothers Alfred and Frederick who were to play the leading roles as the company expanded in later years.

Various toy patents were taken out by Britains as it ventured into the mechanical toy trade in the early 1880s. Patents for mechanical toys were known to have been applied for

1893 onwards. This revolutionary new technique not only produced a more pleasing end product but it also saved metal, thus making Britains toys both more appealing to children and also more affordable. When poured into the mould the molten metal was allowed to coat the inside walls like a skin before being poured out through a draining hole as the mould cooled. Thus, when the mould was opened the formed figure was hollow inside. This process had already existed in fairly primitive forms prior to Britain's refinement and subsequent development of it. It was Britains, however, who really embraced the process and took full advantage of it. William Britain Jnr

Dennis joined the firm and would go on to become its leader in later years. He was responsible for designing the Zoo animal series and several advertising models including the much sought after Nestle 'World Cow' and Sharp's Sir Kreemy Knut, along with the large model of Felix the Cat that became a best seller. It was also Dennis Britain who was the driving force behind the production of the Britains Walt Disney figures after approaching the Disney empire at its London based office.

Production was affected during World War Two as the use of metal was strictly controlled by the government. After the war came some classic Britains toys including a diecast



By the early 1930s Britains employed more than 400 workers and its catalogue had grown to include 430 plus sets with production exceeding twenty million models per year.



in 1884, 1886 and 1888 and Britains products around this time included the 'Waltzing Couple' and 'Tea Drinking Mandarin' both of which sold well, creating capital wealth for further development.

In 1889 William Britain Junior married Lucy Ashton and with William Snr, by now 60-years-old, his father took more of a back seat in the business allowing his son to flourish. It was William Britain Jnr who is largely credited with pioneering the introduction of the new hollow casting or slush casting process to the company that was to catapult Britains way ahead of its competitors from

had been working on refining this process for many years prior to 1893 but it was only when he felt that the method was reliable and sustainable that a contract was agreed to supply Gamage's toy shop in London with lead figures. The importation of toys from Germany was prolific at this time and toy soldiers were among the most popular sellers. Britains now turned its full attention towards hollowcast figures. By the early 1930s Britains employed more than 400 workers and its catalogue had grown to include 430 plus sets with production exceeding twenty million models per year.

In 1922 William Britain Junior's son

Fordson E27N tractor in the farm series made with a several different wheel variations. These super model tractors are now keenly sought after by collectors. It also produced a splendid model of Sir Malcolm Campbell's 'Bluebird' land speed record car that had a removable body and a box with a detailed cut-away illustration of the super sleek vehicle.

During the early 1950s Britains worked closely with W. Horton Toys and games making the 'Lilliput' series of miniature toys. Many of these were farm related including another charming miniature version of the Fordson E27N tractor.

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY**LEFT**

After excelling in metal miniatures, Britains then turned its attention to plastics. Pictures Courtesy of Vectis Auctions.

**ABOVE**

Along with toy soldiers, Britains has also become famous for its range of farming models.

**ABOVE**

Throughout the years, Britains has turned its attentions to many periods and numerous subjects.

**ABOVE**

This is the famous Nestlé's World Cow, which is one of Britain's more unusual choices for inspiration.

**ABOVE**

Sir Malcolm Campbell's 'Bluebird' land speed record car by Britains in its original box.

Things were changing rapidly in the toy soldier industry and by the late 1950s plastics were becoming hugely popular with companies like Herald and its designer Roy Selwyn-Smith putting pressure on Britains to move more with the times. Britains eventually bought out Herald in 1959 and plastic figures slowly became the core of Britains' business during the 1960s with hollowcast figures finally being phased out in 1966.

1976 saw the introduction of Deetail plastic figures with metal bases. Manufacture of these figures was transferred to the Far East not only for reasons of cost but also to enhance their quality and detail. Following the retirement of Dennis Britain in 1984 Britains Ltd was sold to Dobson Park Industries who re-named the company Britain-Petite. In 1997 this company was acquired by Ertl of Iowa, famed for its farm and agricultural toys. Ertl itself was then purchased by Racing Champions a large American toy and construction kit maker with production being moved to China.

In 2005 the Britains brand changed hands once again after being acquired by First Gear – a small American diecast toy maker. Having gone through so many changes of ownership Britains was now back in the hands of a small family run business that is committed to maintaining the Britains long established reputation for detail and quality. So happily the Britains name is still alive and kicking in the toy world today. Whatever you collect and whatever your specialist area might be the chances are that Britains Ltd will probably figure in it somewhere such is the vast range of toys it has produced through its long history. **CG**



William Britain Junior's son Dennis joined the firm and expanded the range of figures that Britains produced, including this rather charming Sharp's Sir Kreemy Knut. A very dapper figure indeed!

**ABOVE**

To begin with Britains would produce miniatures exclusively for the London store Gamage's.



Dennis also launched Britains into the world of licensing and it made a number of licensed products from the likes of Disney. Here you can see the best-selling Felix the Cat figure.

**ABOVE**

As the years rolled on, Britains began to favour plastic more and more, like the Deetail models seen here.



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It's as easy as ABC!

This month **Alwyn Brice** celebrates (slightly tardily) a very famous battle...

Well, readers, we have reached B in the toybox alphabet. I had no hesitation about this letter when planning the lexicon: it had to be Britains and it had to be knights. More precisely still, those heroes of Agincourt and the Wars of the Roses. Britains' knights, loosely speaking, came in two guises: the lead and the plastic. In the 1950s, thanks to the talented hand of Roy Selwyn-Smith, the famous sculptor, Britains launched a range of knights, both foot and mounted, under the banner of Knights of Agincourt.

Agincourt, as every good schoolboy knows (or knew – history lessons today seem less preoccupied with the depth of dates that I used to have to recall) was fought in 1415. The result was England 1 - France (did not turn up). The range that appeared, in lead, offered flamboyant poses for the lucky child of the day. In retrospect, these models were scarcely playthings and, being hand-painted and containing quite a few colours, weren't cheap either. They turn up today at swapmeets, usually singly, but also with their original box.

Four mounted figures included a standard bearer, a chap with a mace, one with a lance and one with a sword. The men at arms are imaginatively executed also, and can be found in a set, with a little diligence. They are not particularly costly, either, which is a bonus. Remember that standard entertainment of the era would have included the Wild West, knights in armour and cops and robbers – and series like Robin Hood, William Tell and so on must have all helped sales. This range is a pleasing one and reminds us that quality rather



LEFT

A set not often encountered, these fellows would originally have been strung in their box.

RIGHT
Wonderful, brightly coloured, hand-painted series is a reminder of a bygone era.



LEFT

Gorgeous mounted knight with full horse caparison at the attack: this was ingenuity indeed.



RIGHT

Two of the five foot figures that really established Britains as masters of the genre.

than quantity used to be the norm back then.

Fast forward a decade and we are firmly rooted in the land of plastic; and if you add four decades to the above battle date, then you'll find yourself donning a mail surcoat for the Wars of the Roses. Having to improve on the Agincourt series wasn't going to be easy but the Swoppet range exceeded the brief – and then some. Courtesy of movable heads and torsos, these figures gained some degree of realism and individuality; and then there was the incredible attention to detail that is the trademark of these toys. It's impossible to think of a company today replicating this kind of painstaking attention: scabbards made of rolled tinplate, separate swords, interchangeable roses and plumes, an array of headdress, three colours of horse, opening visors and either a caparison or webbed horse furniture... Britains offered it all. You could build a mounted figure in a score of different ways if you had enough spare parts. Other toy manufacturers must have gasped at the sheer complexity of these miniatures.

They were also produced in their millions, which is why so many are around today. Treasured (in the main – they were not cheap when compared to the likes of Timpo), they were typically the centre-piece of any toy soldier collection. Values today continue to edge upwards for the really mint examples and a few extremists pay inordinate sums to secure yellow horse blankets or white charging horse models. We are never likely to see this kind of ingenuity again: along with its Floral Garden range, this was truly Britains' finest hour. **CG**

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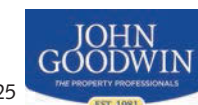
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PRICE GUIDE

For Star Wars fans who may be a little budget-conscious we've got a special action figure guide, plus a diecast round-up from M&M Auctions.



▲Carette for Bassett-Lowke 1909-14 GWR grey ventilated van with red letter cat no. 13415, scratches to sides and roof, fair to good. *Sold for £45, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Hornby 1938-41 E2E double track 3-rail electric level crossing with light brown gateposts, loss of paint to gates, fair to good. *Sold for £30, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



◀Hornby 1930 black SR clockwork 0-4-0 tank locomotive No. A600, various chips and scratches, missing boiler handrail knobs and hook to front coupling. *Sold for £120, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Bassett-Lowke 4-4-2 Tank Locomotive No. 6810, considerable touching-in to body, fitted with modern can electric mechanism with skate pick-up, fair condition. *Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*

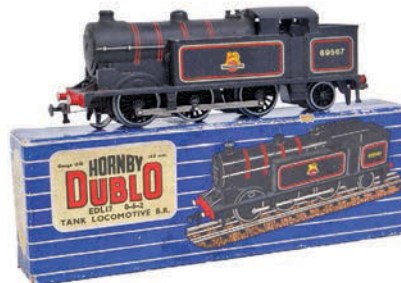


▲Bassett-Lowke BR 12v DC standard 'Compound' 4-4-0 No. 41109, footplate loose, with six-wheel BR tender. *Sold for £360, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*

➔Hornby 1938-41 Redline-Glico Petrol Tank Wagon, good, box good. *Sold for £45, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Bassett-Lowke maroon LMS electric standard 'Compound' 4-4-0 No. 1108, small touching-ins, with six wheel LMS tender with sides creased and repainted. *Sold for £140, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



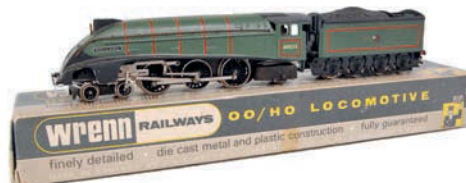
▲Hornby Dublo EDL17 3-rail tank locomotive, in very clean condition, box has inner end packing pieces, good, box good. *Sold for £45, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



◀Hornby Dublo D1 SR meat van, in very good condition for age, box dated 10/50, very good, box very good. *Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Hornby Dublo EDL11 gloss green 'Silver King' engine and tender, few small chips to paintwork, good. *Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Wrenn Railways W2211 BR green Mallard engine and tender, some blemishes mainly to tender sides, with instructions, good, box fair to good. *Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



▲Hornby Dublo 2245 box outer containing a dismantled 3,300 electric locomotive, would probably restore. *Sold for £170, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.*



Kenner Star Wars Luke Skywalker vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within near mint bubble, upon excellent 21A punched card back. **Sold for £380, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2) (with Sensorscope) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon excellent 48c un-punched card. **Sold for £110, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back (Twin-Pod) Cloud Car Pilot vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon good plus to excellent 47 punched card. **Sold for £90, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Imperial Commander vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within excellent plus bubble upon good plus 45a punched card. **Sold for £60, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Bespin Security Guard (black) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within good plus (yellowed) bubble upon good 48c punched card. **Sold for £50, Vectis, December.**



Palitoy/General Mills Star Wars Empire Strikes Back 4-LOM vintage 3 3/4" figure, mint within near mint bubble on excellent 45b punched card. **Sold for £190, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back AT-AT Driver vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within excellent bubble upon good 41a punched card. **Sold for £70, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back FX-7 (Medical Droid) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within good plus bubble upon good plus 32a punched card. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Rebel Commander vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within good bubble upon good 41e punched card. **Sold for £45, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Sandpeople vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within excellent plus bubble upon excellent 48c punched card. **Sold for £130, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Ugnaught vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within good plus (yellowed and indented) bubble, upon excellent 41e punched card. **Sold for £70, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Han Solo (Hoth) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within good plus bubble, upon good 31a punched card. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Lobot vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within good plus to excellent bubble upon excellent to excellent plus 41a un-punched card. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Imperial Stormtrooper (Hoth Battle Gear) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within good bubble, upon good plus 32b un-punched card back. **Sold for £90, Vectis, December.**



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Han Solo (Bespin Outfit) vintage 3 3/4" figure, excellent (left leg is frosted) within excellent bubble, upon good 41d punched card. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**

NEWS

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\$17k

It's been estimated it would cost \$17,000 to buy all The Force Awakens merchandise.

12

There were originally only 12 action figures available in the Star Wars range from Kenner/Palitoy.

650k

Mark Hamill was originally paid \$650,000 to play Luke Skywalker.

7'6"

Chewbacca, in case you're interested, measures seven foot six inches tall.



Kenner Star Wars Luke Skywalker: X-Wing Pilot vintage 3 3/4" figure, excellent (paint rubs to face) within near mint bubble upon good plus to excellent 20f punched card. Sold for £320, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Yoda vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint to mint within excellent plus (yellowed) bubble upon near mint 31b un-punched card back. Sold for £170, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Bespin Security Guard (white) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within excellent plus to near mint bubble upon good plus 31a punched card. Sold for £100, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Leia Organa (Bespin Gown) vintage 3 3/4" figure, near mint within excellent plus to near mint bubble upon excellent 31b punched card. Sold for £180, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Death Star Droid vintage 3 3/4" figure, excellent plus within good plus bubble upon fair (proof of purchase seal cut around) 21a punched card. Sold for £60, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars The Power of the Force Lando Calrissian (General Pilot) 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon good plus to excellent un-punched 92 card. Sold for £140, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi General Madine 3 3/4" vintage figure, excellent (torso yellowed) within excellent (yellowed) bubble, upon good plus to excellent un-punched 65c card. Sold for £60, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Paploo 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within near mint bubble upon fair punched 79c card back. Sold for £60, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi See-Threepio (C-3PO) 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within near mint (slightly yellowed) bubble upon excellent un-punched 79a card. Sold for £110, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Emperor's Royal Guard 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within excellent plus (yellowed) bubble upon excellent to excellent plus un-punched 77a card. Sold for £110, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Darth Vader 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon good plus to excellent punched 77a card. Sold for £200, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Prune Face 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon excellent to excellent plus un-punched 79a card. Sold for £70, Vectis, December.



Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Teebo 3 3/4" vintage figure, near mint to mint within excellent (yellowed) bubble upon excellent to excellent plus un-punched 77a card. Sold for £60, Vectis, December.



Dinky No. 270 Ford Panda Police Car, near mint in a very good box. *Sold for £50, M&M Auctions, December.*



Corgi No. 247 Mercedes 600 Pullman, excellent to near mint in a fair box. *Sold for £35, M&M Auctions, December.*



Corgi GS44 Mounted Police Set, mint in a good box. *Sold for £35, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 890 Berliet Tank Transporter, light wear only, hence excellent to near mint in a very good to excellent box. *Sold for £135, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Toys No. 651 Centurion Tank, black rubber tracks, very good to excellent in a very good to excellent box. *Sold for £40, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 24f Peugeot 403 Familiale Estate Car, good in a fair box. *Sold for £45, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 543 Renault Floride, green body, good in a good to very good box. *Sold for £35, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 542 (24ZT) Simca Ariane Taxi, excellent in a very good to excellent box. *Sold for £80, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 554 Opel Rekord, very good in an excellent box. *Sold for £60, M&M Auctions, December.*



French Dinky No. 24j Alfa Romeo 1900 Coupe, fair plus to good in a very good box. *Sold for £50, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Toys No. 905 Foden (second type) Flat Truck with Chains, restored, excellent in a good box. *Sold for £45, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Supertoys No. 501 Foden (first type) Diesel 8-wheel Wagon, good plus in a fair to good plus box. *Sold for £60, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Supertoys No. 901 Foden (second type) Diesel 8-wheel Wagon, fair to fair plus in a fair plus box. *Sold for £50, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Supertoys No. 923 Big Bedford 'Heinz 57 Varieties' Van, good to very good in a fair plus box. *Sold for £75, M&M Auctions, December.*



Dinky Supertoys No. 903 Foden Flat Truck with Tailboard, rarer version is good to good plus in incorrect fair box. *Sold for £80, M&M Auctions, December.*

NEWS

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Corgi No. 497 The Man from UNCLE Thrushbuster, missing ring and decal on car bonnet, still excellent in reproduction box. **Sold for £55, M&M Auctions, December.**



Corgi No. 268 The Green Hornet Black Beauty, contains secret package with missile and spinner, generally excellent to near mint in very good to excellent box. **Sold for £170, M&M Auctions, December.**



Corgi No. 267 Batman Batmobile, lacks secret instructions, still very good plus to excellent in very good to excellent box. **Sold for £220, M&M Auctions, December.**



Corgi No. 275 Rover 2000TC, near mint in excellent box. **Sold for £50, M&M Auctions, December.**

Corgi No. 261 James Bond Aston Martin DB5, includes secret instructions, generally excellent in very good to excellent box. **Sold for £150, M&M Auctions, December.**



Budgie Toys No. 220 Leyland Hippo Cattle Truck, good plus to very good in a very good box. **Sold for £26, M&M Auctions, December.**



Budgie Toys No. 214 Salvage Crane, very good plus to excellent in a good box. **Sold for £35, M&M Auctions, December.**



Budgie Toys No. 226 Foden Dump Truck, very good to excellent in a good plus box. **Sold for £30, M&M Auctions, December.**



Budgie Toys No. 276 Bedford LWB Tipper 'Ham River Grit', excellent in a good plus to very good box. **Sold for £45, M&M Auctions, December.**



Budgie Toys No. 238 Scammell Scarab 'British Railways Railfreight', excellent in an excellent box. **Sold for £30, M&M Auctions, December.**



Spot-On No. 262 Morris 1100, good plus in a very good box. **Sold for £55, M&M Auctions, December.**



Dinky Supertoys No. 959 Foden Dump Truck with Bulldozer Blade, excellent in a very good to excellent box. **Sold for £75, M&M Auctions, December.**



Corgi No. 229 Chevrolet Corvair, excellent to near mint in a very good box. **Sold for £45, M&M Auctions, December.**



Dinky No. 118 Gift Set 'Tow Away Glider' Set, generally near mint in a good to very good box. **Sold for £140, M&M Auctions, December.**

eBuys

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 101 Thunderbirds**, easily one of Dinky's most iconic toys, this had been stored by an adult collector since its original purchase for just £16.50. Interestingly the vendor had never opened the pod to check what was inside. **Sold for £739.89 (27 bids)**



♣ **Nomura Robby the Mechanized Robot**, made in 1957 (the golden age of Japanese tinplate) it was in excellent condition with only a few scratches, with the seller noting "Robby is in amazing condition". The box wasn't so good though. **Sold for £626 (19 bids)**



♣ **Corgi Toys Original Commer Combex Promotional Issue Van**, there wasn't much of a description for this item, just a note about some chipping and paint discolouration. However, the rarity really speaks for itself to collectors. **Sold for £600 (Buy it Now)**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-On No. 116 Caterpillar D9 Bulldozer**, despite being unboxed the seller was keen to promote the model's "excellent condition" and the fact it still has three levers intact. The seller also noted: "this is an ultra rare model". **Sold for £535 (four bids)**



♣ **Kenner Raiders of the Lost Ark Indiana Jones**, although Kenner is best known for its Star Wars figures, it also produced a range of other movie tie-ins, like some inspired by Indiana Jones. This particular model was in excellent condition. **Sold for £399.99 (Buy it Now)**



♣ **Scalextric Auto Union Race Tuned Ref. C96**, the slot car had been "used very briefly 50 years ago" and the seller had owned it since new. Despite its age the motor still pulls strongly and had all its original parts. **Sold for £399 (Buy it Now)**



♣ **Nicky No. 660 Mighty Antar Tank Transporter**, this is the Indian version of the Dinky Tank Transporter but in civilian colours and was originally bought in a New Delhi shop in 1982. The model was in excellent condition while the box was damaged. **Sold for £365 (14 bids)**



♣ **Lesney Matchbox Superfast MB32 BP Petrol Tanker**, this was a particularly rare example in near mint to mint condition with a green base/grille. The box was original but had a large scuff to one end flap. **Sold for £361.09 (20 bids)**



♣ **Dinky Toys Post Office Services Gift Set No. 299**, "one of the nicest and rarest of the Dinky Gift Sets" noted the seller. It came from a collection that had been built up for more than 20 years and was a fantastic display piece. **Sold for £360 (24 bids)**

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Ship-shape in Shepton

David Boxall visits the Shepton Mallet Christmas Toy Fair.

The Shepton Mallet Toy Fair takes place at the Bath and West Showground in Somerset. It is the largest toy fair in the South west, and is organised by Stuart Vowles of Bulldog Fairs. The December show is usually slightly larger than normal, with traders taking every opportunity to make their toys available to an ever keen public gearing up to get some last minute prezzies. This year was no exception, with lots of enthusiasm and Christmas cheer.

First up I spotted Bob Burnett who had some excellent foreign makes, together with the usual mixture of mint Corgi and Dinky toys. I particularly liked the Tekno E Type Jaguars and the spectacular 'Falk Zonen' Breakdown Truck, also made by Tekno. These Danish models from the 1960s and even those from the early 1970s have all become very popular of late.

One of the widest ranges of diecast toys was to be found on the table of Jordan Thomas of Jordan's Vintage World. There were lots of excellent boxed and unboxed models, including Corgi, Dinky, French Dinky, Norev and many more. I saw the Spot-On Mulliner Luxury Coach in mint condition with a mint box for £750. This toy was released in 1961, as model No. 156. Next to the coach was the Dinky Toys release of Stripey the Magic Mini – complete with the figures and in a box, priced at £400. There were many more models available

- both boxed and unboxed, including a number of the harder to find items.

I found a fabulous scratch-built tram on Roger Warren's table. It had been constructed over a two year period, some 30 years ago. Roger always has lots of unusual and quite rare items for sale. This particular model was a Birmingham tram, which was all electric with independent suspension - amazing. It had been made with full glazing with real glass. This unique item was priced at £1,800.

Martin Jewell had a fabulous array of Spot-On models on the left hand side of his table, and to the right he had a cascade of older Dinky Toys. I noticed the Jaguar XK120, released as model No. 157, in 1954. This was the yellow version with yellow hubs. It was priced at £145. Parked alongside was the yellow and grey model of the same car, priced at £150. There was also an AC Aceca Sports Coupe in light grey with a red roof and red hubs, priced at £65. There were lots more – all in beautiful condition. What a treat!

Traders travel from far and wide to the Shepton show but Oliver Chisholm was fortunate enough to have made a comparatively short journey from his shop in Sherborne. I was very taken with the 'Pepe' Mercedes Taxi, which was made of plastic with a tinplate base. This was a very colourful model with a basic interior, probably made in a 1/36 scale.

Elsewhere, there were



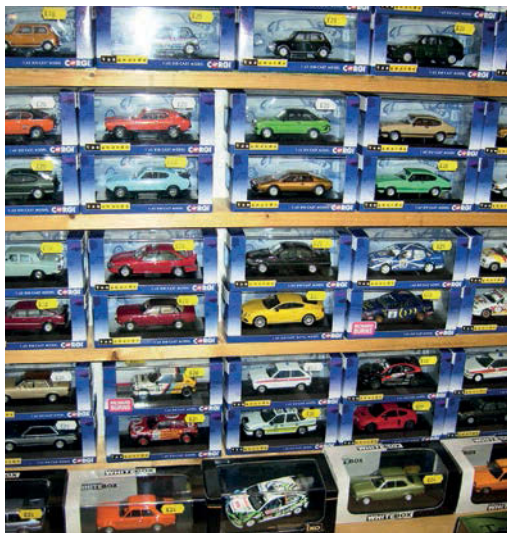
Bob Burnett had some excellent toys by foreign manufacturers.



ABOVE The Jaguar XK120, was released as model No.157 in 1954.

NEWS

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ABOVE
David Rees carries mainly modern manufacturers in his stock.



ABOVE
Jordan Thomas of Jordan's Vintage World had lots of excellent boxed and unboxed models.



ABOVE
The boxed Dinky Slumberland Guy Van, was released as model No. 514.



ABOVE
The Official Lone Ranger Holster Set by Crescent looked as though it was fresh from the toy shop.



ABOVE
The super deluxe kitchen would make a very special Christmas present.

some very special military items for sale on Sid Butler's table. As well as a great many mint and boxed Corgi and Dinky toys, Sid had brought along a number of military ambulances and lorries. These were by a variety of well known manufacturers, including Britains.

Next I headed to see David Rees, who carries mainly modern manufacturers in his stock. Numerous names were present, including Oxford Showtime models. However, it was the 'wall' of Vanguard models that drew my attention. Among the many, I noticed a group of Ford Capri

cars, all priced at £20, and a number of competition cars, priced between £20 and £30.

If you were searching for spectacular Corgi models, then Nick Mulford's table was the place to look. Among the many goodies, I saw the Corgi Citroen DS19, model No. 210. This Citroen was unboxed and priced at £48. There was a vast array of superb Corgi toys, mostly in near mint to mint condition. Despite all the wonderful Corgis, however, Nick was very keen to show me one of his latest items for sale. The Official Lone Ranger Holster Set by Crescent looked as though it

was fresh from the toy shop – a time shifting item that took me back to my cowboy days at the age of five. The guns and holsters were particularly well displayed in the window box, right down to the bullets on the gun belt. This lovely set was released in 1966 by the Wrather Corporation, 'as seen on ABC Television', and was priced at £250. Needless to say, the set momentarily drew my attention away from the original Corgi Accessory Packs, all priced at £5 each.

Not far away, another very diverse table display had been arranged by 'Retro Ronnie' and he had some really fantastic

items for all the family. These included the twelve shot 'Trail Blazer' Rifle by Crescent, priced at £75, and the tinplate 'Range Rider', priced at £125. It seems that the cowboy wild west theme is making a comeback. Also available as a particularly special Christmas present was the British manufactured kitchen, priced at £140. The working kitchen was fabulous, and even had the luxury of running water, if so desired. All the mod-cons were present, including a cooker, fridge, sink, together with numerous pots and pans.

My last table to visit this year was that of 'Aquitania

Collectables'. They had a great selection of toys mainly from the 1960s, with a few older Dinky toys sprinkled here and there. I spotted a boxed Dinky Slumberland Guy Van, model No. 514, which was priced at £260. Parked near by was the 'Ever Ready' Guy Van, model No. 918, priced at £250.

It was the early afternoon when empty pockets triggered a steady withdrawal but before I left the show, I caught up with Stu and Chris Vowles. As usual, they were delighted with the turnout and asked me to pass on their 'seasonal glad tidings' to all the traders and visitors alike. ■

EVENT GUIDE

■ **WARRINGTON**

Organiser Barry Stockton is expecting some top dealers at this relatively new venue, which is well lit and easily accessible. There's lots of free parking and excellent refreshments. A fair well worth checking out.

- **Venue:** Warrington Collegiate, Winwick Road, WA2 8QA
- **Time:** 10.30am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £2, children 50p

■ **HODDESDON**

What better way to spend an evening, than in the company of fellow collectors? A great opportunity to buy, sell, swap and get valuations for your old toys. There are always lots of model railway items on offer too.

- **Venue:** Sheredes School, Cock Lane, EN11 8JY
- **Time:** 7pm to 9pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £1

■ **BRISTOL**

The Bristol fair is actually one of the longest running events in the UK, with up to 80 stalls on offer. It usually attracts top traders from the south of England selling the best in model railways and collectable toys... old and new! There's also free parking.

- **Venue:** Abbeywood School, New Road, BS34 8SF
- **Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £2.50, family £5

■ **CHESTER**

Tony Oakes has secured a new venue for this toy fair, which has been running for more than 35 years. There will be the usual mix of new/used model railways, diecast vehicles, tinplate, etc. Certainly worth visiting.

- **Venue:** The Cheshire County Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Upton, Chester, CH2 1PR
- **Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £2, concessions £2, family £4

FAIRS

16 JANUARY 16

- **Ashton,** TTC Toy Fairs, 07846 772568
- **Brentwood,** J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Pudsey,** John Marshall, 0113 282 4986
- **Leeds,** Mr G Burbage-Atter, 0113 2824986

17 JANUARY 16

- **Coventry,** Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Warrington,** Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Brighton,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Kirkby-in-Ashfield,** Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

19 JANUARY 16

- **Royal Wootton Bassett,** Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

20 JANUARY 16

- **Hoddesdon,** Joe Lock, 07866 641215
- **Burton-upon-Trent,** Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

23 JANUARY 16

- **Henfield,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

24 JANUARY 16

- **Dudley,** Rewind Collectables, 07969 050421
- **Donington Park,** Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Midhurst,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Ipswich,** J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283
- **Dudley,** Rewind Collectables, 07969 050421

26 JANUARY 16

- **Tonbridge,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Garstang,** CANCELLED, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

27 JANUARY 16

- **Petersfield,** Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

30 JANUARY 16

- **Chester (New Venue),** Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Windsor,** Windsor International Toy & Train Collectors Fair, 07825 564960

31 JANUARY 16

- **Barry,** Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Bolton,** Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

- **Sunbury on Thames,** R M Toys, 02392 381529
- **Colchester,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Kempton Park Racecourse,** R M Toys, 02392 381529
- **Shepton Mallet,** Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

2 FEBRUARY 16

- **Rugby,** Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

4 FEBRUARY 16

- **Theydon Bois,** Joe Lock, 07866 641215

5 FEBRUARY 16

- **Alfreton,** Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

6 FEBRUARY 16

- **Didcot,** Ronnie Davis, 07708 385061
- **Stoke-on-Trent,** Tony Oakes, 01270 652773

7 FEBRUARY 16

- **Falkirk,** McLaren Models, 01324 624102
- **Bristol,** Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Lincoln,** J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Worthing,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Kidderminster,** Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Haydock Park,** Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Stockport,** The Toy Cupboard, 07846 772568

9 FEBRUARY 16

- **Heywood,** Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876
- **Hook,** Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

13 FEBRUARY 16

- **Shildon,** Pennine Models, 07966 333605

14 FEBRUARY 16

- **Birmingham,** Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Dublin,** Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Orpington,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Clyst St Mary,** Ron Saunders, 07952 895043

16 FEBRUARY 16

- **Elsecar,** Wheelbase

Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876

20 FEBRUARY 16

- **Maidstone,** Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair, 01622 298159
- **Monmouth,** Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Beaconsfield,** Toy & Train Fairs, 020 8205 1518

21 FEBRUARY 16

- **Exeter,** Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Ashington,** Simon Phillips, 07727 023893
- **York,** J & J Fairs 01522 880383
- **Rayleigh,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Chipping Norton,** Don Davidson, 01608 641870
- **Norwich,** J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283
- **Reading Vintage,** Tony Oakes, 01270 652773

23 FEBRUARY 16

- **Garstang,** CANCELLED, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009
- **Henfield,** SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

AUCTIONS

19 JANUARY 16

- **Billinghurst,** Bellmans, 01403 700858
- **Slough,** Maidenhead Static, 07825 564960

20 JANUARY 16

- **Warwick,** Warwick & Warwick, 01926 499031
- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616

27 JANUARY 16

- **Newbury,** Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

28 JANUARY 16

- **Poole,** Cottes, 01202 052304

29 JANUARY 16

- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Poole,** Cottes, 01202 052304

30 JANUARY 16

- **www.eastbristol.co.uk,** East Bristol Auctions, 0117 9671000

1 FEBRUARY 16

- **www.antiquetoys.com.au,** Trains, Planes & Automobiles

5 FEBRUARY 16

- **Sheffield,** Sheffield Auction Gallery, 0114 281 6161

17 FEBRUARY 16

- **Shrewsbury,** Halls Holdings, 01743 450700
- **Bridgwater,** Tamlyns, 01278 445251
- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Shrewsbury,** Halls Holdings, 01743 450700

18 FEBRUARY 16

- **Bridgwater,** Tamlyns, 01278 445251
- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616

19 FEBRUARY 16

- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616

20 FEBRUARY 16

- **Bury St Edmunds,** Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748623

24 FEBRUARY 16

- **Beeston,** Townsend Auction Galleries, 01328 598080
- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616

25 FEBRUARY 16

- **Thornaby,** Vectis, 01642 750616

East Anglia's Premier Toy Fairs

NORWICH Sunday 21st February

Lancaster Suite, Holiday Inn, Norwich Airport, NR6 6JA
10.30am - 2.30pm. Tables £25 Public admission: £2.50, Children: Free

For more details please contact J&D TOY & TRAIN FAIRS
John Parsonage 07881 555283 or Dennis Payne 01953 861348

TOY & TRAIN FAIR GATESHEAD INT. STADIUM

Neilson Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE10 0EF (Just off Felling-by-pass, A184)

SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2016 10.00am-3.00pm



- Admission: Adults £3.0, Concessions £2.00
- Buy, sell and swap trains, diecast cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more!
- Free parking, working exhibitions and cafe facilities

Interested in selling your collection or want a table to sell your stock?
Contact Jim on 07504 035955 or email: jim_corr73@hotmail.co.uk



HODDESDON

Wednesday 20th Jan 7pm - 9pm

Sheredes School, Cock Lane,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8JY
Admission: £1

THEYDON BOIS

Thursday 4th February 7pm - 9pm

Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Nr Epping, Essex CM16 7ER
Admission: £1

SOUTH CROYDON

Wednesday 30th Mar 6.30pm - 8.30pm

St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road,
Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DD
Admission: £1

For more details please call:
07866 641215

GARSTANG

Tuesday 29th March

From 6.30pm

Future date: 26th April 2016

KIRKLAND AND CATERALL MEMORIAL

HALL, PR3 OHR Corner A6 and A586

Tel: 01282 439009



TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR

Richard Huish College

South Road, Taunton, TA1 3DZ (On B3170)

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2016

10.00am - 3.00pm • 100+ tables expected.

For tables, contact Dave: 01643 706736
EXMOOR COAST RAILWAY MODELLERS

CRAWLEY TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR

The Bewbush Centre, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8XW

Sunday 28th February

Open: 10am to 2pm • Free Parking

Admission: £2.00 from 10am, early birds welcome

All enquiries: Dave: 07742 609865 or Pete: 01424 846676

• www.modelcarmart.com/crawley

• Email: modelcarmart@gmail.com

TOY & TRAIN FAIR



BEACONSFIELD

Saturday
20th February

Beaconsfield School, Wattleton Road,
HP9 1SJ. M40 J2, Close to M25

10.30am - 3.00pm

For more details please call Peter or Diane

020 8205 1518

CHRIS DYER FAIRS

TOY & TRAIN FAIRS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BARRY

Sunday 31st January

10.30am-3pm

Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street,
Barry, Nr Cardiff CF63 4RU

(Admission £2.00/Child or OAP £1.50)



DUBLIN

Sunday 14th February

10.30am-3pm

The Talbot Hotel (formerly Stillorgan Park Hotel),
Stillorgan Road (on main N11 route) Dublin, Ireland

(Admission £4)



MONMOUTH

Saturday 20th February

10.30am-3pm

Monmouth Leisure Centre, Old Dixton Road,
Monmouth, South Wales, NP25 3DP

(Admission £2.00/Child or OAP £1.50)



BRISTOL

Saturday 12th March

10.30am-3pm

B.A.W.A Health & Leisure Centre,
589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG

(Admission £2.00/Child or OAP £1.50)



Tel: 01643 702757 / 07966 694579 www.chrisdyerfairs.com



www.j-jwebbtoyfairs.com

01522 880383



BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY

International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN
10am - 2.30pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2.30pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

YORK RACECOURSE SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

The Knivesmire Stand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
10am - 2.30pm >> 100 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

HUNTINGDON SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Int. Indoor Arena, Kings Bush Centre, Wood Green Animal Shelters, London Rd, Godmanchester
PE29 2NH. 10am - 2.30pm >> 230 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 19TH MARCH

International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN
10am - 2.30pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

HUNTINGDON EASTER MONDAY 28TH MARCH

Int. Indoor Arena, Kings Bush Centre, Wood Green Animal Shelters, London Rd, Godmanchester
PE29 2NH. 10am - 2.30pm >> 230 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

For bookings and further information
please telephone Lorraine on

01522 880383

New email: jandjfairs@virginmedia.com

SRP TOYFAIRS



BRIGHTON, SUSSEX

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY

BRIGHTON RACECOURSE, BRIGHTON, BN2 9XZ 10am - 2pm.



MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY

THE GRANGE, BEPTON ROAD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 9HD 10am - 2pm

TONBRIDGE, KENT

TUESDAY 26 JANUARY (Evening Fair)

THE ANGEL CENTRE, ANGEL LANE, TN9 1SF. 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

COLCHESTER, ESSEX

SATURDAY 31 JANUARY

MARK TEY HALL, MARK TEY, COLCHESTER, CO6 1EN 10am - 2pm.



WORTHING, W. SUSSEX

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

CHARMANDEAN CENTRE, FOREST ROAD, WORTHING 10am - 2pm.

ORPINGTON, KENT

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY (Next event: 1st November)

CROFTON HALLS, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 8PR. 10am - 2pm.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ. 10am - 2pm.

HENFIELD, W. SUSSEX

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY

HENFIELD HALL, HENFIELD, WEST SUSSEX, BN5 9DB 10am - 2pm

srptoys1@hotmail.co.uk www.srptoyfairs1.co.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: PAULA AND GERRY ON 07739 998012

CREWE TOY AND TRAIN COLLECTOR'S FAIR
NEW VENUE! NEW VENUE! NEW VENUE!
 Crewe Heritage Centre, Vernon Way,
 Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2DB
**TRAINS, DINKIES, TINPLATES, MECCANO,
 RAILWAYANA...and much, much more!**

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH
 10.30am - 3.30pm. 6ft Table for £18

Bookings: Crewe Model Engineering Society,
 93 Merlin Way, Crewe, CW1 3YP
 Tel: 01270 505781 or 01270 760149
 before 8pm (not Saturdays or Sundays)

EXETER TOY FAIR
SUN 14TH FEBRUARY
CLYST ST MARY VILLAGE HALL,
(1/2 mile from M5 J30)
 Doors Open 10.30am - 1.30pm
 Refreshments available
 and ample parking.
**FOR FURTHER DETAILS
 PLEASE CONTACT ROD ON:**
07952 895043/07859 063247

Toy Train and Collectors Fair

DIDCOT
Saturday 6th February
 Civic Hall, Britwell Rd, Didcot OX11 7JN
 From 10am. Early bird from 7am

CIRENCESTER
Sunday 28th February
 Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester GL7 1JT
 From 10am. Early bird from 7am

For more details and to book please ring
07708 385061 or 07900 266427

STOCKPORT
Sunday 7th February 2016
Toy & Train Collectors Fair
 Masonic Guild Hall, Wellington Road South
 (A6), Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 3UA
10.30am - 2.30pm
 Admission: £2 (Under 12's: FREE)
07846 772568

**TO ADVERTISE
 HERE PLEASE
 CALL CLAIRE ON
 01778 391179**

SUNDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 2016
HAYDOCK PARK
 THE EXHIBITION CENTRE,
 Haydock Park Racecourse (1 mile M6 Jun 23) WA12 0HQ
 10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.
 UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

SATURDAY, 19th MARCH, 2016
MERSEYSIDE MODEL RAIL SHOW
 St. Mary's Catholic College,
 Wallasey Village, Wirral CH45 3LN - 11.00 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.
 Includes Model Railway Layouts, Model Boats, Preservation Societies,
 Club Stands, Toy Collectors Stands etc. - Admission: Adults £4.50 Children £1.00

ENQUIRIES BARRY STOCKTON
0151-334 3362
www.barrystocktonfairs.co.uk

Maidstone
**TO THE BEST
 VINTAGE
 TOY SHOW
 IN KENT**

MAIDSTONE VINTAGE TOY FAIR
SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2016
 Lockmeadow Market Hall & Leisure Complex, Barker Road, Hart Street Entrance, Maidstone
 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Admission £2.00

5 MINS WALK FROM
 TOWN CENTRE.
 MAIDSTONE WEST & EAST
 RAILWAY STATIONS. PARK
 AND RIDE SERVICE STOPS
 NEARBY. CLOSE TO MOTORWAYS
 M20 AND M2. LARGE ON-SITE
 CAR PARK (P&D). ALL DAY
 REFRESHMENTS

**PLENTY TO
 SEE ALL DAY**
**-TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS,
 TEDDY BEARS, MODELS
 & MORE. FURTHER
 INFORMATION**

**TEL: (01622) 298159
 (01732) 840787**

BULLDOG FAIRS

**ORGANISERS OF THE BRISTOL, EXETER, SHEPTON
 MALLET & THORNBURY TOY COLLECTORS FAIRS**

**SHEPTON MALLET
 TOY COLLECTORS FAIR**
Sunday 31st January
 10.30-2.30pm
 Bath & West Showground,
 SHEPTON MALLET, BA4 6QN
 Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each.
 • Up to 300 Stalls • Children under 16 free with paying adult
 • Free parking for 1000's of cars
 • Restaurant now open.

**BRISTOL
 TOY & TRAIN FAIR**
Sunday 7th February
 10.30-2.30pm
 Abbeywood Community School, New
 Road, Stoke Gifford,
 BRISTOL. BS34 8SF
 Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each
 • Up to 80 Stalls • Children under 16 free with
 paying adult • Free parking • Light refreshments

**EXETER
 TOY & TRAIN FAIR**
Sunday 21st February
 10.30-2.30pm
 Westpoint Arena, Clyst St Mary,
 EXETER. EX5 1DJ
 Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each.
 • Upto 300 Stalls • Children under 16 free with paying adult
 • Free parking for 1000's of cars
 • Restaurant now open.

Bulldog Fairs 01373 452857 or 07917 125641. Visit www.bulldogfairs.com

VENUE THE ISLINGTON BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE

**NEW DATE
 SATURDAY
 2ND APRIL
 2016**

Guideline Publications
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PRESENTS

**THE TOY SOLDIER SHOW
 LONDON**

THE LARGEST SHOW IN EUROPE

**THE NEXT SHOW
 DATES**
 Saturday 5th December 2015
NEW DATE SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2016
 Saturday 4th June 2016

EARLY BIRD
 Entry 9.30am - 10.30am £10.00
General Admission
 10.30am - 4.00pm £6.00
 £5.00* for all pre paid tickets
Children under 14 - FREE

**BOOKING, ENQUIRIES
 & INFORMATION**
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Hornby Series

DINKY TOYS

OXFORD, SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1AB. M40 Junction 9
+ A Vintage Hornby 'O' Gauge Train Layout. ** 10.30am-3pm **

DETAILS: RICHARD ATKINS TEL: 01869 347489

HEYWOOD

TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 7-9PM

Civic Centre, 3 Church Street, Heywood,
Lancs OL10 1LW
Easy to find from M62. Take A6046 Heywood/Middleton
exit approx 2 miles on left. Admission £1.70,
Concessions/children £1.20 Early entry 4.30pm - £4

ELSECAR

TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 7-9PM

Milton Hall, Fitzwilliam Street, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8EZ
(opposite Heritage Centre). Parking 150yds off
Wentworth Street.
Admission £1.70, Concessions/children £1.20
Early entry 4.30pm - £4

Great fairs to visit with a friendly atmosphere. Refreshments available.

• Tel: Brian 01246 767876 or 07751 613640 • wheelbasefairs@virginmedia.com

Steven Clements Fairs

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT Tuesday 19th January

6.30pm - 8.30pm • Memorial Hall, Station Road, SN4 7EN • 3rd Tuesday monthly

PETERSFIELD Wednesday 27th January

6.30pm - 8.30pm • Festival Hall, GU31 4EA • Free Parking and great cafe

HOOK Tuesday 9th February

6.30pm - 8.30pm • Hook Community Centre, RG27 9NN • 2nd Tuesday monthly • New venue with huge car park and cafe

Table and chair hire is also available for your event. Please email or call for a quote!

For details and bookings call 01380 725322 or 07958 101891 • Email: clementsairs@aol.com

R. M. Toys Ltd

Are Proud To Announce

London's No 1 Sunday Toy Collectors Fair

KEMPTON PARK TOY FAIR

At: Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East
Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 5AQ. M3 Jct 1 onto A308

ON

SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2016

10.30am - 3.00pm

Adults - £4.00 OAPs - £3.50 Children - £1.00
Early Entry Buyers - £10.00 (8.30am onwards)

Approx 200 tables of toy and model dealers, buying, selling
and part exchanging a wide variety of collectables including
Model Railways, Models Cars and Buses, Scalextric, Dolls and
Teddy Bears, White Metal, Aircraft, Display Cabinets,
Memorabilia and much much more

For information and booking details please contact
Russell Martin on 023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507

Future date: 13th March, 15th May, 2nd October, 4th December

TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIRS

CHESTER "The Collectors' Favourite"

FREE
PARKING

Admission
£2.00

**SATURDAY
30TH JANUARY
10.30am - 2.30pm**

Cheshire County Sports Club,
Plas Newton Lane, Upton CH1 1PR



FREE
PARKING

STOKE ON TRENT

Admission
£1.00

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 10.30am - 2pm

Fenton Community Centre, Manor Street, Fenton, ST4 2PT

FREE
PARKING

KIDDERMINSTER

Admission
£1.50

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 10.30am - 2pm

Gilt Edge Leisure Centre, Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster DY11 7DY



**READING
RIVERMEAD
LEISURE CENTRE**
Richfield Avenue, RG1 8EQ

(DATELINE 1995 - PLUS VINTAGE STYLE MODELS)

**Sunday 21st February
10.30am to 3.00pm**

- Up to 170 tables selling vintage toys and collectables
- Train layouts and other displays
- Ample parking - superb facilities • Refreshments

Admission: Adults £3.50 Accompanied children FREE

Hornby Series



MECCANO

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CORCI TOYS



DINKY

Major UK and overseas dealers and collectors in attendance
A MUST for all serious collectors and enthusiasts of dateline toys

For details contact Tony Oakes Fairs Tel: 01270 652773, mobile 07825 631323

Obsolete

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks, this time of year always revives fond memories of those lovely warm, cosy winter nights at home as a kid. Sitting around a roasting hot open coal fire watching Coronation Street or Steptoe & Son on our good old Pye telly... which had a screen about ten inches square! Most nights, as a treat, Dad would take a few puffs on his pipe before getting up from his trusty old armchair to pass around his big tin of toffees. Ah, life as an infant in those distant days seemed so perfect and full of fun... no worries, like having to pay

a scene of a camel train wandering through a desert carrying boxes of Riley's Cream Toffee. Now bearing in mind that Riley's was based in the Yorkshire town of Halifax you would assume that somebody in the firm's art department had a very vivid imagination! Or were they trying to suggest that Riley's toffee was renowned throughout the world, including the desert? In those days though many companies made claims that seemed rather unlikely, so it probably was trying to claim its products were world beaters. This tin was a great buy for £15 and it's one I

skim against the wall in the playground? We'd line up six each and any you knocked over you took – a bit like milk cap marbles. I reckon I must have amassed hundreds of these things in my time but I hadn't seen any for years before finding a bag full of them for a couple of quid at a car boot sale. I reckon they ought to be worth a quid each at least?

My Matchbox buy of the month was a nice pale yellow Vauxhall Victor (45a) with clear plastic windows and grey plastic wheels in a super clean box. The axles showed a bit of rust but I can't complain because I only paid 30 quid

construction toy to find a new home was a 6c Euclid Quarry Truck, which had been in stock for a while but eventually sold for £28. Boasting 10 black plastic wheels, this was certainly a beast of a toy when it was first introduced in 1963. I bet the folk along the Lesney production line loved fixing all those wheels on!

Talking of the early 1960s a rare Hayley Mills In Search of the Castaways button badge found a buyer willing to shell out a tenner for it. This Walt Disney feature film was released in 1962 with Mills starring alongside Maurice Chevalier.

Still on the subject of badges, a small, enamel Dinky Toys Club lapel badge soon found a buyer at £15. These are getting very hard to find now and there is plenty of demand for them. Mind you, there is far more demand for the original club certificates, if you can lay your hands on one. It cost one shilling to join the Dinky Toys Club, which was launched in 1957. An even rarer badge was the one you got if you visited the Dinky Toy factory at Binns Road but I've never had one of those. Still on Dinkies a keen collector snapped up a Morris Z Telephone Service Van (261) that I'd priced up with a tag of £65. Issued in 1956 this van was made for five years and was also included in the Post Office Services Gift Set (299).

Well that's about it for yet another month folks. Happy hunting during early 2016 and, as always, be lucky! **CG**

Talking of nostalgia anyone out there remember those cardboard milk bottle caps that we used to save and skim against the wall in the playground?

the bills! Why am I taking this little trip down memory lane, well it was the image on the lid of an old tin of Barker & Dobson 'Television Selection' sweets that summed up those memories so well and I simply had to snap it up – despite it carrying a weighty 25 quid price tag. Barker & Dobson was one of Britain's oldest confectionery companies being formed in 1834 and based in Liverpool, although its products were sold all over the north of England.

Another toffee tin to come my way this month couldn't have been more of a contrast to the 'Television Assortment', as it showed

have never seen before, with a very early type of transfer printed lithography. It might be one that finds its way into my collection... if I can afford to keep it.

Another great buy this month was an enamel door sign advertising the Golden Penny, which I assume was some sort of weekly magazine? The penny on the sign is dated 1896 so it's certainly got some age to it. This door finger plate set me back £85, but what a great piece of nostalgia.

Talking of nostalgia anyone out there remember those cardboard milk bottle caps that we used to save and

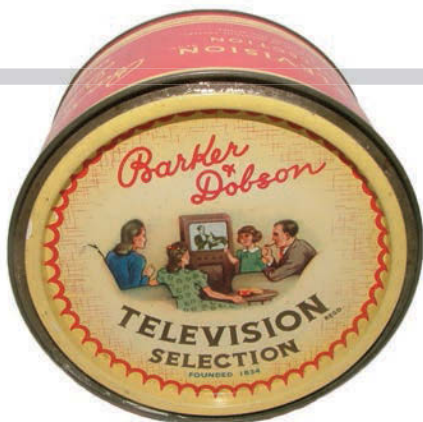
for it. Surely the box must be worth that on its own? This model was introduced to the 1-75 series in 1958 and proved to be a really good seller.

On the subject of selling, a Matchbox King-Size Scammell Low-loader with Caterpillar Tractor found a buyer willing to hand over £120 for it, despite the tractor tracks having hardened over the years. In my opinion this model was one of the best of the King-Size range with terrific play value. It first went on sale in toy shops in 1962 and was one of several Matchbox models to carry John Laing transfers.

Another nice Matchbox

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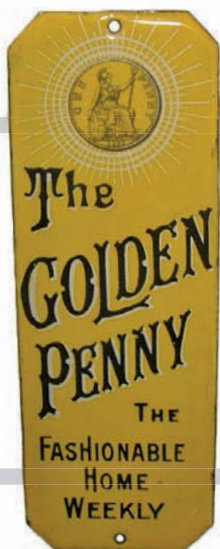
This 'Television Selection' tin brought back nostalgic memories of cosy nights by the fire for Oz who simply couldn't resist buying it.



ABOVE A beast of a model, this Euclid Quarry Truck in super mint boxed condition eventually sold for £28.



Very rare and beautifully printed, the desert scene on this toffee tin is a far cry from the small Yorkshire town where Riley's Toffee was made.



Dating from late Victorian times this Golden Penny advertising door finger plate is scarce and in great condition for its age.



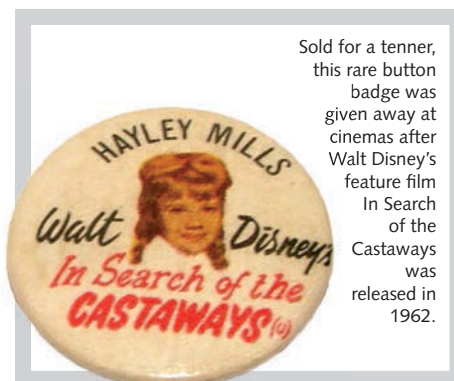
ABOVE What a super buy. This Matchbox Toys Vauxhall Victor dates from the early 1960s and was well worth the £30 Oz paid for it.



Dating from the 1950s these old cardboard milk bottle caps were scooped for a couple of quid. Another Oz bargain buy!



ABOVE This Matchbox King-Size Scammell Transporter and Tractor has a good box and is in mint condition. Little wonder it soon found a buyer.



Sold for a tenner, this rare button badge was given away at cinemas after Walt Disney's feature film In Search of the Castaways was released in 1962.

RIGHT

This Dinky Morris Z Telephone Service Van was in super condition and soon attracted a buyer willing to hand over £65 for it.

COLLECTORS
GAZETTETOP
TIPS**KEEPING ON TRACK**

Talking of hardening rubber tracks I make a point of turning the tracks on my obsolete toys that have good rubber tracks every so often to stop them forming into one position and hardening. Temperature changes can cause rubber tracks to harden so be careful where you store your collection. In extreme cases replacement rubber tracks can be purchased from specialist parts suppliers.



Sold for £15, these Dinky Toy Club lapel badges are getting very hard to find says Oz.

CLASSIFIEDS

RETAILERS

DEVON

EXETER ANTIQUE CENTRE on the Quay. Don't miss the first (or any!) instalment of an excellent lifetime's private collection of Dinky Toys (English & French), Corgi Toys, Spot-On Toys, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Britains and Continental diecast toys, etc now being sold from Cabinet 7 at the Antique Centre on the Quay, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4AP. The collection includes rare and unusual items for sale. There is an eclectic mix of collectables at the centre and it is well worth a visit at any time. Open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. A cafe is situated within the centre. Tel: Brian 01803 865581. www.exeterquayantiques.co.uk

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